

Jordanians face radiation from Israeli plant

CAIRO (AFP) — Residents of southern Jordan may suffer from diseases resulting from radiation poisoning from the Israeli nuclear plant at Dimona, the Arab daily Ash Sharq Al Awsat reported Friday. An unnamed Jordanian official told the London-based paper that several patients from the region showed "maladies of an unknown source." It has not been proven that they resulted from radioactivity from Dimona, but it is a distinct possibility. He said tests had shown the presence of radioactivity in southern Jordan, "but at low levels." Israel's Dimona plant is located in the Negev desert, 60 kilometres (35 miles) from the Jordanian city of Tafilah, which has a population of 40,000, the paper said. Ash Sharq Al Awsat also quoted an unnamed Arab diplomat in London as saying Jordanian officials had requested British experts "several years ago" to examine patients from southern Jordan with unexplained illnesses. The experts issued a report on the patients which was never revealed, the source told the paper. Dimona is suspected to be the centre of an Israeli nuclear weapons programme. Western experts have estimated the Jewish state possesses 200 nuclear warheads.

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King issues invitations for October summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent invitations to 50 Arab, Muslim and foreign heads of state, including the American president to attend the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will be held here on October 29, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Dustour. Quoting well-placed sources, the newspaper said the Royal messages were channelled through the Jordanian ambassadors accredited to those countries. In Manama, Bahraini leader Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa received the Royal message on Wednesday, while in Sanaa, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh received the invitation on Thursday, during a meeting. Mr. Saleh had with Jordan's ambassador to Yemen Fayez Al Rabi.

Croats take on Serbs in Bosnia; West weighs alternatives to air power

ZAGREB (Agencies) — up to 10,000 Croatian government troops and allied Bosnian Croat militia have poured into the Livno Valley area in western Bosnia to attack Serb forces, a U.N. spokesman said Friday.

"It's a serious and alarming build-up," Chris Gunness told a news briefing at U.N. Balkans headquarters in Zagreb.

The United Nations fears the offensive and a parallel build-up of government forces around Serb-held Krajina in Croatia will lead to outright war in Croatia and possibly draw in Serbia.

"In Croatia, we fear military actions may be initiated soon, possibly within days," Mr. Gunness said.

Croatian media reported that Croat forces had entered the Bosnian town of Grahovo on the main supply road linking the Krajina Serb stronghold of Knin inside Croatia with Serb-held Bosnia.

U.N. officials said they could not confirm the report. There are no U.N. observers in the area.

The independent Serbian news agency BETA quoted sources close to the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) as confirming Croat troops had entered Grahovo.

Gunness said up to 10,000 Croatian regular and Bosnian Croat militia forces had poured into the Livno Valley to the southeast of Grahovo.

Some 5,000 Serb civilians had fled Grahovo northwards along the main road towards Drvar, U.N. officials said.

Television footage from Drvar showed refugees driving tractors and trailers, their belongings piled high.

The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) said Croat forces had bombed Grahovo and civilians were being evacuated. BSA officials were not available to comment on reports that Grahovo had fallen.

Military analysts said the offensive was aimed at cutting Serb-held territory in two and at relieving pressure on Croatia's allies in the besieged Bosnian government-held enclave of Bihać in northwest Bosnia.

Rebels Croatian Serbs in-

vaded Bihać 10 days ago to secure supply lines to Serb-held Bosnia. They also hoped to pre-empt a possible Croatian government offensive to retake their breakaway territory near the Adriatic Sea.

The armoured forces, supported by Bosnian Serbs and a rebel Muslim militia, have swallowed up about a third of the enclave.

More than 8,000 Muslim refugees have fled the offensive but are still caught in the enclave. The U.N.-designated "safe area" of Bihać only covers Bihać town in the south of the enclave.

U.N. observers reported intense Serb shelling on Friday around the enclave's central towns of Pecgrad and Coralic.

"The UNHCR (U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees) warehouse in Bihać town is empty and the UNHCR says the situation is desperate," Ms. Gunness said.

U.N. Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon said there was a buildup of Croatian troops west of Knin near the Adriatic and near Karlovac, just to west of the Bihać enclave.

"They are professional brigades with reasonably heavy weaponry. If they put pressure on the (Krajina enclave) from the west that should alleviate pressure on Bihać," Mr. Vernon told reporters in Sarajevo.

U.N. observers believe the Krajina Serbs and renegade Muslims want to cut Bihać in half and then sweep south to finish off Bihać town.

NATO is committed under U.N. mandate to protecting Bosnian government pockets designated as safe havens. But two of them fell to Serbs in eastern Bosnia this month.

"Mr. Gunness said air strikes to safeguard Bihać town were problematic. They have immense risks because we have 10,000 potential hostages," he said, referring to U.N. peacekeepers based in Krajina Serb territory.

In Washington, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said NATO was looking at ways to shore up protection of Bihać and other U.N. "safe areas" without necessarily resorting to air power.

Speaking on U.S. televi-

sion, Mr. Perry said he expected NATO military planners to present options "within a few days" for defending safe areas other than Gorazde, which the alliance has already vowed to defend with air power.

But Perry said the situations in Bihać and Sarajevo were "very different militarily" from that of Gorazde because both were being defended by Bosnian Muslim forces.

"Air power is not the only way of dealing with the problems there," he stated.

"The difference in Bihać is that there are very large and very capable Bosnian government forces there defending it."

Perry said NATO was "not trying to win a war" in Bosnia but only to "equalise the differential" between the Muslim and Serb forces on the ground.

U.S. and U.N. officials in recent days have underscored the complexities characterising the fighting around Bihać. With six different warring parties involved, the utility of air strikes there has been brought into question.

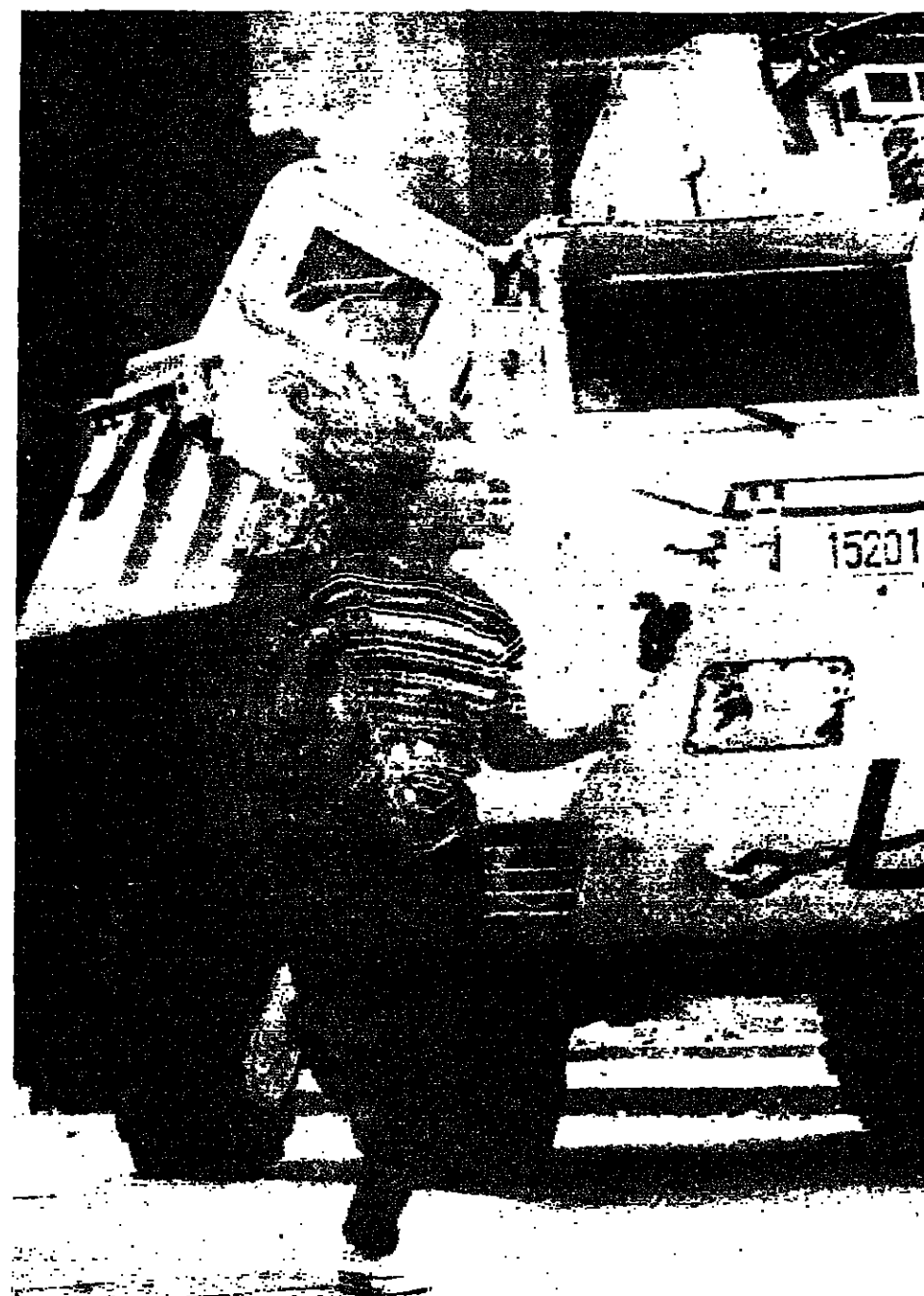
"I will not hide from you the complexities of the military situation," the U.N. commander in Bosnia, French General Bernard Janvier, said in Brussels.

The U.S. daily the Washington Post meanwhile reported Friday that U.S. allies in Europe privately believe Washington is channeling arms to the Bosnian Muslims through third-party Muslim countries, but the White House denied the report.

The charges arise "every three or four weeks" and have been "adequately denied by the U.S. government," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said.

In another development, British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind was quoted Friday as saying that the Bosnian government can have either an end to the international arms embargo or U.N. peacekeepers, but not both.

"If the embargo is lifted, the United Nations must leave," Mr. Rifkind said in an interview with the international Arabic-language daily Al Hayat.



A Sarajevo girl runs past a French U.N. APC at a dangerous intersection in Sarajevo July 28. In the last week, 45 people have been killed in the Bosnian capital. U.N. and NATO military planners met in Brussels on July 28 to discuss air protection of the last U.N. declared "safe area" Gorazde in eastern Bosnia (Reuters photo)

Syria refuses Israeli ground stations on Golan

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria repeated Friday it would not accept Israeli early warning ground stations on the Golan Heights as part of a peace settlement.

"Syria completely rejects such a demand because it forms a violation of national sovereignty and maintains Israel's occupation of part of Golan Land," state-run radio

said. Israel, the United States and the world know Syria "will not give up an inch of its land," it said, adding that full withdrawal from the Golan, which Israel seized in 1967, "is the basic condition and the core of peace."

The radio said that had Israel accepted the idea of balanced and symmetrical

security arrangements, recent talks between Syrian and Israeli military chiefs of staff in Washington would have succeeded in reaching satisfactory agreements for all.

"But the whole world knows that Israel has once again chosen the policy of blackmailing and obstinacy," the radio charged.

Palestinians protest new Israeli colony in West Bank

AL KHADER, West Bank (AFP) — Palestinians and Israeli leftists protested Friday against new construction on the West Bank by Jewish settlers aiming to derail the peace deal with the PLO.

About 150 demonstrators held a non-violent protest against the construction of five wooden cabins on the new hill-top settlement, to be called Givat Hadagan, about one kilometre from Efrak.

Supported by a group of Israeli left-wing activists, the Palestinians prayed and sang nationalist songs.

Construction started Wednesday night on the hill, south of Bethlehem.

A large number of soldiers were deployed around the hill on Thursday but did not intervene.

Settler leaders launched a campaign against the spread of autonomy last June 13 and have also begun to build another new settlement on the West Bank. They also took over more land by pushing out the border fences at a dozen or more settle-

ments. The 130,000 settlers fear that the next stage of autonomy — which is still under negotiation between Israel and the PLO — will result in their evacuation from the West Bank.

They also oppose ceding any powers to the Palestinians and many favour Israeli annexation of the West Bank.

Stop negotiations

Meanwhile three out of every five Israelis want to suspend negotiations to spread PLO autonomy across the West Bank, according to an opinion poll published Friday.

The Yediot Aharonot found 31 per cent in favour of a total halt to the talks, which are to resume on Sunday, and 30 per cent for a suspension.

Twenty-five per cent wanted the negotiations to go ahead and another eight per cent to accelerate the talks on army redeployment on the West Bank and Palestinian elections.

Trainee pilot returns home after emergency landing in Jerusalem

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A trainee pilot, disoriented over the Dead Sea, made an emergency landing in Jerusalem but was flown back to Jordan a few hours later. Ahmad Juweiber, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority, said.

Yousef Jamal Odeh, a trainee pilot with the Royal Jordanian Air Academy, was flying over the Naour area southwest of Amman on Thursday when he lost his bearings and entered the Israeli airspace by mistake.

Mr. Odeh, in his early twenties, was flying solo at midday time near Naour when he unknowingly crossed the Jordanian borders, according to Mr. Juweiber.

Trainers at Amman Marka Airport, in radio contact with Mr. Odeh, tried to guide him back to base but to no avail. He entered the Israeli air-

pace already short on fuel, sources said. Two Israeli air force planes intercepted the Jordanian Cherokee plane and directed it to land in Atarot airport, near Jerusalem.

Mr. Odeh, who was questioned by the Israeli authorities, returned to Amman around 4 p.m. Thursday. Another RJA pilot flew the Cherokee home.

"Psychologically, he would feel more comfortable if we were there beside him," Mr. Juweiber said.

Jordanian airplanes started flying over Israeli airspace on March 10 following an agreement reached between the aviation authorities of Jordan and Israel on Feb. 21. Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty in October last year.

At present, Royal Jordanian, the national air carrier, makes 50 flights a week through Israeli airspace, most of them to European destinations.

Peres says 'Palestinian Golan' part of Israel, talks with Syria 'puzzle within riddle'

By Saleh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

TEL AVIV — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has said that a disputed part of the Golan Heights claimed by both Syria and the Palestinian authority was now "part of Israel."

He said that the territory known as "Al Himma" or the "Palestinian Golan" was "never a Syrian land nor a Palestinian territory."

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan Times and the London-based Al Hayat daily, Mr. Peres said that Syria had taken the Al Himma "by force" and "in contravention of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242."

He added that the Palestinians had no right to claim it because "there are no Palestinians living there now," and because "there has never been a Palestinian state."

Mr. Peres said negotiations with Syria have become "a puzzle within a riddle" and that he himself has "given up the hope to understand correctly what the Syrians want."

However, he said he believed Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was seeking "a deal that would guarantee the restoration of the Golan Heights in addition to guarantees for a Syrian regional role, economic assistance and good relations with the United States." He explained that

Mr. Assad wants all these elements "simultaneously and not one after the other."

The Israeli minister also said that Iraq was "equipped to play an important role in the future of the Middle East," but ruled out opening a dialogue with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein because "you cannot open a dialogue with a man you do not trust a word he says."

He revealed that Israel was granting "to whoever wants" among Palestinians in east Jerusalem "the right of Israeli citizenship," pointing out that Palestinian applicants for Israeli passports have increased of late.

Following is the text of the interview:

Question: Where have you reached with the Palestinians? Are you satisfied with the situation as it stands?

Answer: We feel that we are doing something that no other country in the world would do. At the beginning, the Palestinians said it was going to be Gaza first and last and that we shall not go beyond Gaza. Now they see that a promise made by Israel is a promise. Let us not forget that nobody is forcing us, nobody is pressing upon us to do that. Israel is not a weak country militarily, not a poor country economically, and we are doing it under very severe conditions because almost half of our people are

against it. Because terror is still playing a role here and there, affecting the mood of the nation. But despite all this, we offered the first part of the autonomy which would enable them to go to free elections without the presence of the Israeli army. We have agreed to hand them over most of the cities including Qalqilya which is nine miles from the sea, and Toulkarem, which is eleven miles from the sea, and Jenin which is three miles from the border. I told Arafat, who claims that we made him the mayor of Gaza, that now he will also be the mayor of Nablus, Ramallah and Bethlehem. Who else would do it. And I asked him if he understands why we are doing it under such demanding conditions. I told him nobody can explain it without understanding that for Israel it is our choice: We don't want to dominate the Palestinians, we don't want to dominate any other nation. There are a lot of rumours in the Arab World that we want to dominate the Middle Eastern economy. Nothing can be farther from the truth and our feelings. First of all, there is no Middle Eastern economy, there is Middle Eastern poverty. Who wants to dominate poverty. Our economy is not dependent. Secondly, why are we giving up our control over the (Palestinian) cities, really? In order to dominate what? (who) needs, the separation?

Q: Do you think the latest attack (in Ramat Gan) will accelerate the plan for separation between Israel and the occupied territories?

A: I think we have to distinguish between separation in the national sense and cooperation in the economic sense. I think, not only in the benefit of Israel, but for the benefit of peace and the well-being of all, the economies of Jordan, Palestinians and us have to be market economies, whereas from the point of view of government, each party will govern its own destiny and its own culture. I mean we'd like to have an economic Benelux and a political separation, a national separation. We don't want to dominate any Arab country, any Arab people, any Arab culture or language. It gives us neither pleasure nor satisfaction. Why should we? I mean one must be reasonable, why do we need it? We don't. What we want basically are two things: to be neighbours and have our neighbours in good shape, the better they feel the better neighbours we'll have.

Q: There are those in Jordan who believe that these attacks taking place might be the strongest factor in the Israeli elections, what do you think?

A: What we are doing is historically right but politically risky. You know, peace is not an apple tree not like a tomato vegetable. With

tomatoes, you have the fruits in the same season. With apples, it takes years and years before you see the fruits. In the meantime, we are paying politically. I hope we are gaining historically. But we are taking a real risk, and we have decided as a leadership that to win peace is more important than to win elections.

Q: Would that mean that you reject the accusations that most of the behaviour of your government is geared towards the elections or dominated by electoral considerations?

A: What we are doing is against the conventional political wisdom. You know, (Henry) Kissinger, in an article published last week, wrote that every politician must make a choice between becoming a hero or a star. If you are willing to become a hero, you must take the right decisions, if you want to be a star, take decisions that please the people. Our choice in historic terms is a heroic one rather than one oriented towards stardom. We are not doing it because we want to be popular, but because we want to serve right.

Q: Where have you reached on the Syrian track?

A: We are now at the entrance to the Syrian puzzle. It is a puzzle within a riddle. I gave up the hope to understand correctly what are the Syrian decisions.

Q: Would you consider the



Shimon Peres

Golan as his highest priority?

A: I mean it goes together for him... He wants two things, three things, not necessarily one after the other, he wants them simultaneously.

Q: Would Israel accept to allow Lebanon to become part of the deal?

A: It doesn't depend upon us. We would like to see an independent Lebanon. But whether Lebanon will become independent or not is a Lebanese choice not an Israeli one. We cannot provide Lebanon with something she doesn't try to achieve herself. We cannot replace Lebanon. We don't have the slightest ambition or desire for a piece of land or a drop of water or for a role in Lebanese politics. We would like to be good neighbours, we'd like to see Lebanon living in peace and independence, but we cannot do that on her behalf.

Q: It recently emerged that there are problems related to the future of Al Himma in the Golan Heights, or what is known as the Palestinian Golan, what is your stand on this?

A: Al Himma was never part of Syria. They gained it by war (which goes) against (U.N. Resolution) 242 and against the principle of non-acquisition of land by force. They cannot have it both ways. Why should what others took from them be

returned while what they took from somebody else should be kept, why?

Q: So shouldn't it go the Palestinians?

A: I don't think so. Q: Why not?

A: Now it's part of Israel, we didn't annex it I imagine, but now there are no Palestinians there. You see, it is difficult to talk about Palestinian rights, because there was never a Palestinian state, let us not forget. What we are considering is the Palestinian people and we are trying to make arrangements so that the Palestinian people will be able to live their own lives without our control or domination. But otherwise, I don't see any reason why we should give it up. And generally, I don't think that Israel can take so many risks. Everybody wants her to take risks. And we took risks. We gave back to Egypt all of the Sinai. We returned to Jordan the whole of the land and the water. You know, Israel used to be the size of Austria, 80,000 square kilometres, today it is 24,000 square kilometres. I mean we gave up a great deal of land and water and if somebody thinks that we are here just to give up everything, I don't see any reason why anybody should think so. We have to keep an option of self-defence, and we have already taken great risks.

Q: When discussing security

(Continued on page 6)

Jordan appreciates US write-off of debts — Kabariti

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Kabariti has expressed Jordan's appreciation of U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to sign into law a congressional bill allowing the U.S. administration to cancel all of Jordan's debt to the United States.

The president on Thursday signed the bill into law.

The first tranche of debt relief for Jordan was approved by Congress in August 1994 shortly after the signing of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel.

In February 1995, the Clinton administration requested that Congress combine the two remaining tranches, totalling \$488 million, so that the amount would be cancelled in one go instead of two in fiscal 1995 and 1996.

Mr. Kabariti said he hoped that the U.S. administration move would open the way for the member states of the European Union to follow suit and write off Jordan's debt to these countries which, he said, are intent on helping Jordan and support-

In a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kabariti said that President Clinton's endorsement of the bill reflects the U.S. administration's keen backing of the Middle East peace process and its support for Jordan's ongoing economic development plan in the Kingdom.

Earlier this month the U.S. Senate passed a bill allowing the Washington administration to write off the remainder of Jordan's debt estimated at \$488 million.



Abdul Karim Kabariti

ing the peace process in the region.

Jordan's growth fuels surge in electricity demand

By Salehman Al Khalidi
Reuters

Amman — Jordan's electricity consumption, is expected to soar a record 12 per cent in 1995 fuelled by the economy's growth in the wake of peace with Israel, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah said on Friday.

"There has been an extraordinary increase in electricity consumption in 1994/1995 due to growth in the economy, with high industrial, tourism and commercial demand," Mr. Darwazah told Reuters.

He said electricity consumption was forecast to surge by 11 to 12 per cent at the end of 1995, compared to a 5 to 6 per cent annual rate in the pre-1990-1991 Gulf War. It rose 10 per cent in 1994.

Much of the demand was fuelled by a 60 per cent surge in the first half of 1995 by newly constructed hotels outside Amman, as investors cash on a tourism boom in

the wake of Jordan's October 1994 peace treaty with Israel, the minister said.

Mr. Darwazah added that the government planned to invest \$150 million annually in electricity generation to cope with the unexpected rise in demand until the sector was privatised by the year 2000.

He said the government-owned Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) would become a commercially run concern by the end of 1995, a first step towards floating its shares to the private sector.

First half 1995 consumption by large industry, with new industries coming on stream including two iron ore plants, rose by 13.6 per cent, medium firms rose 9.4 per cent, small industry rose 8.6 per cent, while a 10 per cent rise came from commerce.

Household consumption's rise of 12 per cent in the first half of 1995 was due to higher living standards and an annual population growth rate of more than 3 per cent.

Mr. Darwazah said electricity demand was forecast to rise to a seasonal peak load of 1,100 megawatts in 1997 against an expected seasonal peak load of 860 megawatts in Sept. 1995.

Mr. Darwazah said the government decided to install an extra 100 megawatt generator to be constructed by Jan./Feb. 1996.

The generator, at a cost of \$40-50 million, will keep Jordan in "good shape" to meet shortages until 1997 when a \$184 million project to double Jordan's Aqaba power plant is completed, the minister said.

The Aqaba plant's doubling of capacity to 520 megawatt will make it the Kingdom's largest of three power plants.

A final third 130 megawatt unit would be added to the main Aqaba plant by the year 2000, when electricity generation would then be run by the private sector, Mr. Darwazah said.

REC announces new university admission rules for students from badia, remote regions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Endowment Committee (REC) Friday announced the names of badia and remote region schools which would be entitled to enrol their students at state-run universities for the coming academic year.

state-run universities, as well as Amman University College, will admit a total of 9,135 undergraduates in the coming academic year.

Earlier this month, the REC was created, and new rules were set to revise the bases for admitting students residing in remote areas and the badia regions into the

country's state universities.

According to a government announcement, the committee, which was set up in implementation of a royal directive, will target students from less developed areas to be admitted into universities.

The new admissions conditions will replace the pre-



Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad

vious system in which a certain number of state university seats were annually allotted to students from the badia and Jordanian tribes and for special cases through a Royal Court list.

The new measure aims to upgrade the educational process in less developed areas and to eventually provide schools in those areas with better qualified teaching staff from among the graduates who benefited from the REC programme.

REC statement of conditions

- 1 — Students must have completed their secondary studies at the badia regions.
- 2 — Students must have passed their tawjihi examinations in the previous scholastic year.
- 3 — Students must have acquired an average grade of 65 per cent in the tawjihi examination to be accepted at the humanities faculties and no less than 80 per cent for acceptance into the science majors, with the exception of medical schools where only those with an 85 per cent average and above will be accepted.
- 4 — Students must provide a certificate of good conduct.
- 5 — Students must not have previously secured a seat at any state-run university in Jordan.

According to the statement, those student who are accepted will be referred to the universities according to their grades and field of study.

Agriculture ministry denies rumours of use of carcinogens, says produce is safe

Amman (Petra) — The director of the Agricultural Production Protection Department at the Ministry of Agriculture has said that local agricultural produce are safe from any harmful substances and all rumours concerning the use of cancerous insecticides, pesticides or chemicals are totally groundless.

Mazen Khasawneh, told the media Thursday during a tour of the ministry's laboratories in Baqa'a that all Jordanian agricultural produce and those imported from abroad are safe and are subject to strict quality control measures.

found that residual amounts of insecticides and pesticides on fruits and vegetables are negligible, he added.

Mr. Khasawneh said Jordan uses organic insecticides and pesticides which remain harmless provided the recommended dosage is not exceeded.

Jordan has banned the use of highly toxic insecticides for more than 15 years and has been at the forefront of countries which maintain strict safety and quality control measures, the minister said.

Mr. Khasawneh said the ministry prohibits the entry into the country of insecticides with harmful effects on the health of citizens, nor does it allow the importation of any agricultural items known to contain harmful or cancerous substances, and that all imported agricultural products are only cleared when laboratory tests prove them fit for human consumption.

On the use of hormones in agriculture, Mr. Khasawneh said hormones are used internationally in agriculture, and they have no harmful effects on people.

Hormones are available in the plants themselves; they are a means of helping the plant to take root in the ground and have no poisonous or harmful side effects at all, he said.

Our local production and imported agricultural goods are free of any harmful effects resulting from the use of insecticides and pesticides, Mr. Khasawneh said.

He dismissed as baseless any rumours alleging that several countries have turned down Jordanian agricultural exports.

He stressed that Jordan uses insecticides in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

Mr. Khasawneh said the Kingdom uses 3,000 tonnes of insecticides a year — less than the internationally recommended standards, he emphasised.

Tests carried out by ministry laboratories have

Tafileh's new mayor demands help for 'bankrupt' municipality

TAFILEH (J.T.) — Of the 259 mayors and local council members elected on July 11 in Jordan, Ahmad Quraan the new mayor of Tafileh is the first to demand government help because his office is bankrupt and can not pay the wages of the municipality's workers.

In an interview with Jordan Television Mr. Quraan said that the municipality has failed to pay JD 56,000 worth of wages to its 126 workers for June and July and has been unable to provide necessary municipal services such as road repairs, garbage collection and street cleaning.

He said that because the municipality faces a deficit of nearly JD 100,000, his council would need immediate and substantial financial assistance if it is to carry out the required services.

Saying that the municipality's income from local revenues barely covered 20 per cent of its actual needs, Mr. Quraan appealed to the Tafileh residents to pay their public service bills.

He also called on the government to extend help to his council and to find new resources that would enable it to succeed in its mission.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Envi-

ronment Nader Thuheirat said during a tour of Jerash and Ajloun districts earlier this year that the ministry was planning to initiate investment and income generating projects at each major municipality in different governorates after the elections in order to help them earn income needed to finance local services project. The minister also said that the second step would be to help the smaller municipalities.

Admitting that most municipalities were deep in debt, Mr. Thuheirat said that the municipalities would be helped.

Rweished water scarcity will be resolved, says Hammad

RWEISHED (Petra) — The government is concerned about the water scarcity problem in the Rweished district near the Iraqi border and is working on ways to resolve the problem, according to Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad.

Mr. Hammad, accompanied by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat and Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif, toured the Rweished district Thursday.

He was speaking at a meeting attended by district notables after examining the problem with Mafrqa Governor Qafan Majali.

The minister announced that two artesian wells will

be reactivated: Hanif and Rijet al Khail. Pumps will be installed to start supplying Rweished residents with sufficient water.

The minister also said maintenance will be immediately carried out on other local artesian wells which are supplying water to the Hammad agricultural project within the Rweished district.

Authorities will conduct a long-term study for drilling new artesian wells in several regions and for building earth dams to collect rain water for livestock, Mr. Hammad said.

The three ministers inspected the artesian wells and met with local residents

who complained of water shortages and how the situation was affecting their families and their livestock.

The ministers listened to a briefing on the Hammad project by its director, Nameq Tell, and his assistants.

The project involves building earth dams and developing pasture lands.

The ministers, accompanied by officials from the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), also met with Sharifah Zein Bint Nasser, who is supervising a project for the development of the Jordanian badia to discuss local residents' needs and to follow up on the progress of the project.

WHAT'S GOING

JERASH FESTIVAL

- * Concert by Poltex Folklore Group of Poland at the Sound & Light Theatre at 8:00 p.m.
- * Concert by Blassorchester Langenhagen of Germany at Artemis Steps at 9:00 p.m.
- * Concert by the National Club of Circassian Folklore at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- * Guem Drum Show (France), Sound & Light Theatre, Fri., 9:00 p.m.
- * Concert by Najib Haddad, Gracia Theatre, Fri., 9:30 p.m.
- * Performance by Jugnu Group, Forum, Fri., 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- * Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Caravan of Excellence - - the War," (Part II) at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.
- * Operetta, poems of late Jabra Ibrahim Jabra by Tania Nasser and Agnes Bashir at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.
- * Egyptian circus at the Forum at 9:30 p.m.
- * Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-9:00 p.m.).

SEMINAR

- * "Modern Poetry in Bahrain," with the participation of Dr. Alawi Al Hashimi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION

- * Exhibition of Palestinian products 95 at the Universal Expo Centre, University Road.
- * Display of Palestinian heritage at the Professional Associations Complex.
- * Paintings and ceramics by Arab artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uttheina.
- * Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Furun.
- * Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

JICA team arrives for energy talks today

Amman (Petra) — A Japanese delegation representing the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation (JICA) today starts a week-long visit to Jordan during which it will hold talks with senior officials on electricity related issues.

The delegation will undertake several studies on preventing waste in the country's national electricity grid, in addition to studies on developing the Aqaba port and the possibility of setting up industrial estates in the southern regions of Jordan.

The delegation will visit the Aqaba Thermal Power Plant, Al Hussein Thermal Power Plant, and the Electricians Training Centre in Zarqa, which was set up through contributions from JICA.

The centre serves as a regional training centre for electrical engineers and technicians from Arab countries.

'Jordan remains under-supplied by regions water sources'

By Khattab Salman
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Syria has the lion's share of regional water in the Middle East, and Jordan is under-supplied, according to Munther Haddadin, former head of the Kingdom's delegation to the Jordan-Israeli peace talks on water.

"Syria currently uses 220 million cubic metres (mcm) of Yarmouk River waters while its share, designated by an Arab League technical committee in 1987, should not exceed 90 mcm, Dr. Haddadin said in a lecture entitled "Waters of the Kingdom in the Battles of War and Peace," delivered at the World Affairs Council Thursday.

In addition, he said, Syria started building a series of dams on the Yarmouk River in 1970, while Jordan was busy "sorting out its domestic crisis."

"It was not until 1975 that Jordan became aware of the size of the Syrian project. When a Jordanian delegation that I was a member of visited the Yarmouk basin, we were shocked," Dr. Had-

dadin said. He said the discovery of the extent of water being tapped by Syria spurred the Jordanians to move to correct the situation on all levels.

"Syria and Jordan signed two agreements regulating the use of water sources. The first, in 1978, was legally adopted in Jordan, but did not go through constitutional procedures in Syria and thus was not implemented," he said.

"The second water agreement was signed in 1987, but Syria has continued to over-utilise its quota," he said.

Dr. Haddadin said that Palestine National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat requested Jordan's help in water negotiations between the PNA and Israel, during Mr. Arafat's last visit to the Kingdom.

He noted that, according to the Oslo Accord, Palestinians are only allowed to distribute water in the Israeli-occupied territories, conduct maintenance works and collect water fees.

"They (the Palestinians)



Munther Haddadin

are not allowed to have control over water resources in the West Bank," he emphasised.

Concerning future local and regional water needs, Dr. Haddadin said that Jordan will need an additional 300 mcm of water by the year 2000, and 800 mcm by 2040.

"Future regional needs of water could easily reach 3 billion cubic metres in 2040. This amount is not available in Jordan, Syria, or Israel,"

Dr. Haddadin said. He indicated that Turkey and Iraq could help in this regard despite the current water situation in the two countries, which is short by 23 mcm. According to Dr. Haddadin, these two countries could solve their water shortage problems by improving farming techniques and increasing efforts in the collection of intra-Turkish waters.

"This solution can benefit those two countries as well as Jordan, Syria and Israel. It can provide an additional 20 mcm which could be allocated fairly," he said.

Turning to other issues, Dr. Haddadin said that removing the government subsidy on water is inevitable, but needs thorough studies.

"I do not object to this procedure if the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) provide funds for water projects with grace periods during which Jordan can be enabled to raise its per capita to the levels where citizens can afford to pay for unsubsidised water," Dr. Haddadin said.

Taiwan to study need for nuclear arsenal

TAIPEI (Agencies) — President Lee Teng-hui said Friday Taiwan would study whether it needed to start a nuclear arsenal, one day after he said the island would not bow to pressure from arch-rival China.

"Under present circumstances, whether we need to do this is a very big question," Mr. Lee said in answer to a question on nuclear weapons from a deputy to the National Assembly.

The deputy proposed that Taiwan should develop a nuclear arsenal to beef up its national defence, local newspapers reported.

"Everyone knows we had the plan before but this issue drew international attention and affected the whole country's image," Mr. Lee said in an answer carried on state-funded television.

"Whether we need the protection of nuclear weapons... we should re-study the question from long-term point of view," Mr. Lee said.

His remarks added a new dimension to a mounting tension between Taiwan and China after Beijing announced Wednesday it had completed a series of missile tests in the sea just 140 kilometres north of Taiwan.

Top Taiwan officials have said the tests were aimed at causing panic here and fomenting social instability. Relations had already plunged after China's vehement protest over Mr. Lee's landmark private trip to the United States in June, the first by a Taiwan president.

China has issued a series of attacks on Mr. Lee since the visit and repeated a threat of military action should Taiwan declare independence.

But Mr. Lee was defiant in a keynote speech Thursday, saying Taiwan would streamline its military to parry any possible attack from China.

Mr. Lee, in his annual state of the nation address to the National Assembly, said Taiwan would not bow to pressure and vowed to build a force to "terrify and stop" any attack by China.

He condemned China's military build-up as destabilising to the region and said Taiwan would build up a second generation of weapons and soldiers to combat the threat from China, the island's rival since a civil war in 1949.

Both Beijing, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province, and Taipei say they seek re-unification, but on very different terms.

In 1988, officials issued a series of denials that Taiwan was developing nuclear weapons following newspaper reports that a senior nuclear scientist at a government research institute had left for the United States with information that Taiwan was developing atomic bombs.

Taiwan has never denied having the capacity to manufacture nuclear arms. It has three nuclear power plants and a fourth is under construction.

Taiwan signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968.

Meanwhile, the report of a public opinion poll showed Friday that China's recent missile exercise had weakened calls for Taiwan independence with 43.5 per cent of the people here considering Beijing authorities as hostile.

The popularity of President Lee, meanwhile, reached this year's peak of 80 per cent although his controversial "private" visit to the United States was seen to have led to the six-day exercise off Taiwan's northern tip earlier this week, the poll showed.

Only 10 per cent of the 852 respondents were critical of Mr. Lee's performance, the survey carried out by China Times showed.

Fifty per cent of those questioned Wednesday and Thursday preferred to maintain the status quo in relation between the island and its rival China.

Support for declaring Taiwan a state independent of China dropped from 18 per cent in mid-July to 12.4 per cent this week, and 20.7 per cent favoured reunification between the two sides separated in 1949.

Some 37.8 per cent said China might invade the island once it declares independence and 19.8 per cent believed China would do so as it has threatened.

Major's majority cut to 9 after by-election loss

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party suffered a humiliating defeat at the polls Friday, finishing third in a by-election which cut Prime Minister John Major's majority in the 651-seat parliament to just nine.

After a brief period of euphoria in early July when he defeated a challenge to his party leadership, Mr. Major was given a depressingly familiar picture of the government's unpopularity by the voters of Littleborough and Saddleworth in northern England.

Liberal Democrat candidate Chris Davies took the seat from the Conservatives, polling 16,231 votes and narrowly defeating Phil Woolas of the main opposition Labour Party.

Mr. Woolas had 14,238 votes, leaving Conservative John Hudson floundering in third place with 9,938 votes. At the 1992 general election Conservative candidate Geoffrey Dickens polled 23,682 votes and had a majority over Mr. Davies of 4,494.

"This is a superb result," said Paddy Ashdown, leader of the centrist Liberal Democrats who now have 24 members of parliament. "The government's majority has been cut to single figures by a Liberal Democrat victory."

The Conservatives, more than 30 points behind Labour

in national opinion polls, put a brave face. They have not won a by-election since 1989.

Party chairman Brian Mahoney said he was certain the Conservatives would win Littleborough and Saddleworth back at the next general election, due by mid-1997. "I am disappointed we didn't win, but I am encouraged that the bedrock of Conservative support held up and I am satisfied that the Labour Party didn't win," Mr. Mahoney said.

Every seat lost by the Conservatives in by-elections, traditionally used by voters to express their protest against the government of the day, after the 1987 general election was won back in 1992 when Mr. Major had a surprise victory.

The Conservatives, in power since 1979, have lost the confidence of voters because of tax rises, policy U-turns, and a series of sexual and financial scandals.

The public perception of the Conservatives as a deeply unpopular party out of touch with voter concerns was reinforced with a debacle over "fat cat" tax breaks for top executives.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke Thursday caved in to intense pressure when he announced that existing share option schemes would return to the old tax regime.

The whittling away of the

Conservatives' majority — it was 21 after the 1992 election — means Mr. Major could face increasing difficulty pushing controversial legislation through parliament.

A revolt by anti-European Conservative members of parliament caused Mr. Major serious problems in late 1994 and early 1995, forcing him into an embarrassing policy change on a proposed rise in tax on heating fuel included in the annual budget statement.

The Littleborough and Saddleworth by-election was caused by the death of Mr. Dickens, the fifth estimate morality could remove Mr. Major's majority totally by the next election.

Labour was satisfied with its performance but must be disappointed it did not secure victory in the sort of constituency full of disenchanted middle-class voters it will need to win at the next election.

Mr. Woolas said the result showed "there are no go areas for the new Labour."

"People are voting for change now and not protest," said Labour deputy leader John Prescott.

Under Tony Blair, leader for 12 months, Labour has ditched much of its socialist dogma, relabelled itself "new Labour" and moved into the centre ground of British politics.

Simpson witness bolsters defence conspiracy theory

LOS ANGELES (R) — Blood found on O.J. Simpson's socks was placed there by a hand or some other object and was not spattered onto the garments, a forensic expert testified Thursday in the legendary athlete's double-murder trial.

Professor Herbert MacDonell said microscopic examination of the blood stains showed the blood was only on the surface of the fibers, and had not saturated them as would have been the case if the blood had splashed on them.

The blood stains, he said, were consistent with "having blood on your hand or some other object and touching (the socks) and tugging it away."

According to DNA testing, the blood on the socks belonged to Nicole Brown Simpson, and prosecutors claim it splashed on to the socks as Simpson was in the act of killing his ex-wife.

Simpson, a member of the American Professional Football Hall of Fame, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Nicole Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman, who were stabbed, and slashed to death on June 12 last year.

His lawyers claim the bloodstain was planted on the sock by detectives in a conspiracy to implicate Simpson — a suggestion the prosecution has strongly denied.

S. African scientists find 'missing link' fossils

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African scientists said Friday they had found a missing link between man and ape with the discovery of four 3.5 million-year-old fossilised foot bones in caves at Sterkfontein near Johannesburg.

"Here in this one combination of four bones, we have a real missing link," said palaeo-anthropologist Ronald Clarke, who has dubbed his find little foot.

"This is a true missing link in that it combines a human type of ankle bone with ape-like bones leading up to the big toe," he said, running his fingers along the tiny bones.

Philip Tobias, director of Witwatersrand University's palaeo-anthropological research unit in Johannesburg, said the discovery of little foot had solved the debate of how hominids (members of the family of man) started walking upright.

"The new foot bones... comprising a row of articulating bones on the inner side of the foot that leads down to the great toe, provide the best evidence yet found on this question," he said, surrounded by skeletons, skulls and fossils in his laboratory.

"Our studies of these foot bones show clearly that the early apeman of Sterkfontein had a foot which equipped it to walk on two feet, as in humans, but also its big toe was highly mobile and was set at a wide angle to the toes as in apes."

Mr. Tobias said the find solved the dispute over whether early African apeman were adapted to walking upright on only two limbs (bipedal) or whether they had retained some tree-climbing features and sometimes moved on all fours (quadrupedal).

"It's important because of the light it throws on the way in which the transition occurred from the quadrupedal gait of chimps and gorillas to the bipedal gait of humans," he said.

"So another decades-long

Cambodian troops fail to take rebel bases

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (AFP) — Cambodian troops have broken off their attack on a key Khmer Rouge base in northwest Cambodia after sustaining heavy casualties, Thai border officials said Friday.

The retreat from Klar Ngap came late Thursday, they said.

Klar Ngap, 15 kilometres south of the Cambodian border town of Poipet, is on the way to the main Khmer Rouge stronghold of Phnom Malai further west.

Thai troops patrolling the border here spotted cremations of dead Cambodian soldiers at several points across from Thai villages of Laem Nong In and Mai Pak Hong, they said.

Several hundred Khmer Rouge rebels recaptured all areas lost to the soldiers, they said, adding that some of the guerrillas had crossed into Thailand but were repelled by mortar warning shots.

Shanghai (Agencies) — Leading Shanghai dissident Yang Zhou, released from a labour camp on medical parole this month, has been cleared to travel overseas and plans to go to the United States, his wife said Friday.

Li Guopin said public security officials told Thursday if she and her husband can find an overseas sponsor they will be issued passports to travel "in the shortest possible time."

"They told us there was no problem," she said in a telephone interview. "They have completely agreed."

Ms. Li said Columbia University in the United States had agreed to sponsor Mr. Yang as a visiting scholar and might be able to help with medical expenses. The U.S. consulate in Shanghai was helping with the arrangements.

Mr. Yang has a tumour in his throat, although it was not clear whether it is malignant or benign," Ms. Li said.

The 51-year-old founder of the Shanghai-based Association for Human Rights was unexpectedly freed on July 15 after serving one year of a three-year sentence in a rural "re-education through labour" camp.

Mr. Yang is now seeking written clearance to travel from the bureaucracy responsible for China's labour camp system. Ms. Li said she expected early approval.

Ms. Li believes her husband's condition is critical and that time is running out for him to receive proper medical attention for his condition. He has difficulty talking, but he can sit up and walk around, Ms. Li said.

Mr. Yang was released a

Britain freezes aid to Kenya

NAIROBI (Agencies) — British Minister for Overseas Development Lynda Chalker announced a freeze of British aid to Kenya in Nairobi Friday, linking its resumption to progress on political freedom and human rights.

She said Britain had disbursed only £4 million (\$6.36 million) out of £15 million (\$23.8 million) pledged in December, that the remainder was not "in the pipeline," and that she was not announcing any new aid, as she might otherwise have done.

Baroness Chalker, addressing a press conference shortly before meeting President Daniel Arap Moi, said Britain was concerned about the treatment of opposition parties, the "horrors of ethnic tensions" and the "evils" of corruption.

She praised Kenya for its progress in liberalising its economy, but stressed that investors needed a stable political climate.

The minister, who came from talks with Foreign Minister Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, said she would raise all these issues with Mr. Moi.

"We have concern about the treatment of opposition parties, about the treatment of the press, we have heard many disturbing reports of some legal cases, we know the horrors of the ethnic tensions that this country went through, and we know the evils of corruption that face many countries but also face Kenya," she said.

The initiative in improving the political atmosphere lay with the government, the minister said, "but oppositions have to be responsible too."

She appealed for a "cooling down" of political tension

and "a step back from political brinkmanship," and said that if the government had any serious charges against the leaders of the as yet unregistered Safina Party, accused of planning to foment subversion, they should be laid in court, with the defendants entitled to fair representation.

Its secretary general, third-generation white Kenya Richard Leakey, is under constant attack by the government, with Mr. Moi qualifying him as a "racist" and "colonialist."

The British government would continue to talk "honestly in private" about Kenya's problems, Baroness Chalker said.

On aid, she said: "I will watch with great care what is happening on all fronts," adding that she would announce resumed aid "only when we are satisfied that the concerns of the people of Kenya" had been met.

"I hope it (the freeze) will be temporary, as I can say, because I think the country needs the encouragement, but I also think it needs the progress."

"There's nothing specifically in the pipeline, I'm not making any forward pledges or intentions, I'm waiting to see."

"I'm sad, as much as anything, because this country has the real potential for doing so well."

The freeze did not apply to programme "up-country" that were helping the people, Baroness Chalker said.

Meanwhile, Kenyan Cabinet Secretary Philip Mbiti said in a statement that the plot by the Safina (Arka) Party was in a clandestine paper which called for civil disobedience endangering the country.

Argentina 'dirty war' admiral refuses to accept the blame

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Adm. Emilio Massera, the most hated leader of the military juntas that ruled Argentina from 1976-83, broke a 10-year silence Thursday to say he will only repent if the rest of Argentine society does the same.

"If it were necessary for national reconciliation for Massera to repent in public, I am prepared to do so. But of course, everyone else would have to repent too," he told the weekly news magazine Gente.

Adm. Massera was navy chief and a member of the three-man junta for the bloodiest years of the "dirty war" against leftists that followed the 1976 military coup.

After the return of democracy he was convicted of murder, torture, kidnap and robbery and sentenced to life imprisonment along with eight other junta leaders. Current President Carlos

Menem freed them after coming to power in 1989.

The 70-year-old retired admiral still sparks public shows of revulsion, recently being forced to leave a restaurant when fellow diners realised who was sitting at the next table.

In May the Argentine armed forces, now much reduced in size and influence, performed a historic "mea culpa" for the crimes of the dirty war after a spate of chilling confessions by ex-torturers no longer able to bear their burden of guilt.

But Adm. Massera shows a dogged refusal to admit responsibility for the fate of 4,000 people killed by security forces and at least 10,000 "disappeared" — kidnapped, tortured and disposed of without trace on the tinstiest suspicion of leftist leanings.

"It was war and in a war you have to kill to survive. So

why should only nine guys repent? We are pursued as if we were the only ones responsible for what happened and 30 million others had nothing to do with it," Adm. Massera said.

"I am not the murderer people think I am. I never gave the order to kill anyone, never tortured, I've never seen a 'picana' (electric cattle-prod used for torture) and don't even know how to work one," he said.

"I feel compassion, pity and pain for the families of the 'desaparecidos'. Although they are responsible for what happened to their children."

Adm. Massera showed contempt for army chief Gen. Martin Balza's institutional apology for the "dirty war," saying it deepened divisions inside the forces. He questioned Gen. Balza's innocence, eased on his being abroad for most of the "dirty war."

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Secretary wins UB40 legal song battle

LONDON (R) — A British secretary has won a High Court victory against the reggae band UB40 that entitles her to royalties from one of their major chart hits. Deborah Banks, 38, of Birmingham in central England, said she wrote the lyrics that gave the basis for the song Don't Break My Heart, which reached number three in the British charts in 1985 and was included on several UB40 albums. Banks, a part-time songwriter, scribbled the lyrics down for her friend Javid Khan who had writer's block. Khan sold the song for £10,000 (\$16,000) to UB40 who thought it was his. Khan told Banks he would "see her right" but never gave her a cut. The first time she knew the song had made it was when she heard it being performed by UB40 on national television. Named after the card issued to unemployed people in Britain to receive benefit, the multi-racial UB40 from Birmingham are committed to reggae music. Their hits include Red Red Wine, which reached number one in the U.S. charts. The judge ruled that Banks did not grant any licence to UB40 entitling them to use the lyrics. Banks must wait for another court hearing in the autumn to establish how much cash she gets.

"The government will discharge its full responsibility to protect and defend life and property by dealing with any agents of doom firmly and decisively," Mr. Mbiti warned.

He cited possible illegal actions such as forming civil unrest organised by underground coordinators, promotion of student unrest in public universities and a crippling of public transport through intimidation or a blackmail of minibus owners.

"As part of this incitement strategy students are to be supplied with ample drugs, intoxicants and cash inducements to win public support and to cause disaffection against the Kenyan government," said Mr. Mbiti, also head of Kenya's civil service.

Students at Nairobi University rioted Tuesday protesting government plans to raise fees.

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Score

COLOMBO (R) — an Tamil rebel army bases in nearly 200 raids by government forces said. The Liberation Tamil Eelam complex of its sea tiger attacked three tankers, army sources said.

But the army force were ready for the simultaneous attack after receiving army sources said.

The air force Sea Tiger assault troops repulse attack, killing sources said.

Fourteen soldiers, the military adding that fighting raged. Army Brigadier Sarath said only two killed and 18 also said the LTTE rebels.

The military also sank several vessels de-water-jet prop boats stolen from navy sources said.

In a separate troops raided another killing eight army said.

During the missile was fired force helicopter the army said.

The assault at Kokkottudiva hepara and near coast and near pura, all in the

Research

SALA DAMN (Agencies) — forgotten Khmer "killing field" of Penh may turn of the biggest in Cambodia, researcher said.

"God knows undisturbed grass, it's the biggest seen," Craig Reuters.

Mr. Echeson of Yale University Genocide charged with alleged crimes during the Khmer years 1975 to 1979.

The new teacher school in Sala kilometres south of Phnom Penh recreation spot.

In the shell, remains of one skull, other bones in scrap heap of

Vietnam

BANDAR GAWAN, Brunei Communist Vietnamese admitted Association of Asian Nations group founded as a bulwark spread of communism.

The foreign the six member Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand — Vietnam into the ally vibrant foil money in the tin.

World News

Scores of Sri Lanka rebels killed in attack

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan Tamil rebels launched a disastrous attack on four army bases Friday in which nearly 200 raiders were killed by government forces tipped off about the strike, military sources said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) hit the complex of bases in the northeast of the island while its sea tiger naval wing attacked three coastal detachments, army headquarters said.

But the army, navy and air force were ready and waiting for the simultaneous attacks after receiving a tip-off, military sources said.

The air force bombed 10 Sea Tiger assault craft and troops repulsed the inland attack, killing 182 rebels, the sources said.

Fourteen soldiers were killed, the military sources said, adding that fighting was continuing. Army spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said only two soldiers were killed and 18 wounded. He also said the bodies of 182 LTTE rebels were recovered.

The military said the navy also sank several boats. Five of the vessels destroyed were water-jet propelled speedboats stolen earlier from the navy, sources said.

In a separate incident, troops raided an LTTE hideout killing eight Tigers, the army said.

During the rebel attack a missile was fired at an air force helicopter but missed, the army said.

The assault was launched at Kokkottuduvai, Jayasinghepura and Kokilai on the coast and nearby Janakapura, all in the Welioya area

on the border of the north and eastern provinces, the would-be homeland of the LTTE.

Two women "suicide killers" carrying explosive were shot dead outside brigade headquarters in Welioya, spokesman Brig Munasinghe said.

"Terrorists fired a missile at an air force helicopter which was supporting the ground troops, but the pilots using tactics were able to avoid hit," he said.

The attacks were launched as the armed forces were preparing to resume their Operation Leap Forward offensive against the LTTE in the northern peninsula, where they say they have already captured 78 square kilometres of rebel territory.

The four bases make up a complex installed to protect Sinhalese settlements.

The Tigers launched their last major attack on the armed forces on the north-west island of Mandaitivu on June 28, killing almost 100 soldiers in what was widely described as a great military success.

Almost 1,000 Sea Tigers crossed the lagoon across from the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna in a pre-dawn raid that took the island's defences completely by surprise.

Friday's attack followed a leak to the press of a government peace package for the minority Tamils which offers widespread devolution to what would be a new north-east regional council for Tamils and Muslims in majority Sinhalese Sri Lanka. The LTTE broke a truce in

their 12-year fight for independence homeland on April 19 and resumed hostilities with a vengeance.

Operation Leap Forward is aimed at weakening the guerrillas militarily before the official announcement, now due Thursday, of the devolution proposals.

Influential Sinhalese Buddhist chief priests urged the Sri Lankan government Friday to delay its plan to devolve power to minority Tamils until Tamil Tiger separatist guerrillas are defeated.

"The Tigers must be defeated before the proposed devolution package is announced," the venerable Palipane Sri Chandananda Mahanayake told Reuters. "While the entire country is burning this is no time to unveil the devolution plan."

Palipane Sri Chandananda is among several chief priests who have written to President Chandrika Kumaratunga urging her to postpone the formal announcement of the peace plan.

His comments came after government proposals offering wide-ranging devolution to meet Tamil demands for autonomy were leaked to the media this week, apparently in an attempt to test headline Sinhalese reaction to the plan.

Buddhist high priests and the mainly Sinhalese opposition parties are known to be fiercely opposed to plans devolving power to Tamils, fearing it could be a stepping stone to a separate state the guerrillas are fighting for.

Justice Minister G. L. Peiris said Thursday the de-

volution plan not be "unfair" to the Sinhalese.

Chandananda said Mrs. Kumaratunga should heed the advice of the priesthood in the same way she put off plans to abolish the powerful executive presidency, whose powers she alleges were abused by her predecessors, after Buddhist high priests said it was not prudent to do so when the country was at war.

Mr. Kumaratunga plans to meet the chief priests Saturday, he added.

"There is widespread unrest in the country because of the threat posed by separatists," another chief priest, the Ven. Rambukwelle Sri Vipassi Mahanayake, told Mr. Kumaratunga in a letter.

Her plan envisages redrawing provincial boundaries to create a merged new north-east Regional Council for Tamils in the Sinhalese-majority island.

The plan would amend the constitution to describe Sri Lanka as a union of regions instead of a unitary state and devolve power over land and local police to regional councils.

Meanwhile a protestant priest returning from the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula Friday said a church his bishop earlier said had been bombed into rubble by the air force was still standing.

But the priest, who asked not to be named, said the school next door and several houses had been destroyed.

He said St Peter's Church in Navally, north of Jaffna town, was "badly damaged" but was intact and the roof was still on.

Researcher probes new Cambodia killing field

SALA DAMNAK, Cambodia (Agencies) — A long-forgotten Khmer Rouge "killing field" outside Phnom Penh may turn out to be one of the biggest execution sites in Cambodia, an American researcher said Friday.

"God knows how many undisturbed graves are there. It's the biggest one I've ever seen," Craig Etcheson told Reuters.

Mr. Etcheson, a manager of Yale University's Cambodian Genocide Programme, charged with investigating alleged crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge years 1975 to 1978.

The new killing field is a former teacher's training school in Sala Damnak, 25 kilometres southeast of Phnom Penh near a popular recreation spot.

In the shell-blasted remains of one classroom, about 2,000 skulls are piled on other bones in a macabre scrap heap of human re-

mains. It is believed the remains in the schoolroom were put there on the orders of local authorities in 1983, some four years after the Khmer Rouge were ousted by a Vietnamese-led invasion.

Thousands of other bodies are believed to remain in the execution site, which measures about 500 square metres and is about one kilometre away from the school in a grove of sugar palm trees where victims of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge were taken for execution.

The ground is flecked with the remains of cloth used to bind the victims before they were bludgeoned to death.

Local fisherman Phat Dim said villagers had known about the site since 1979.

"This was the biggest prison in Kandal province in the Khmer Rouge time," he said. "All people brought here died here — they never left," he said. Mr. Dim said Khmer

Rouge executioners killed their victims by clubbing them on the back of the neck with an iron bar.

In the late 1970s, during the so-called killing fields period, the Khmer Rouge, widely accused of responsibility for the deaths of one million Cambodians from execution, disease or starvation, launched a series of bloody purges against their own forces in eastern provinces bordering Vietnam.

"This needs further research. This is one aspect of the DK (Democratic Kampuchea or Khmer Rouge) regime that has never been sufficiently analysed before," Mr. Etcheson said.

Meanwhile Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk is to return to Phnom Penh on Aug. 3 in time to meet visiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who arrives here the following day, a senior government official said Friday.

The king is currently in Beijing undergoing medical treatment. He had been expected to return to Cambodia in the first two weeks on August, but a definite date was not finalised until Friday.

The official said the king decided to return Aug. 13 in order to meet with Mr. Christopher who will make a one-day stop in Phnom Penh on his way to Vietnam, from the Association of South East Asian Nations conference now being held in Brunei.

Mr. Christopher's Cambodian schedule has yet to be released but is known to include meetings with the country's two prime ministers and the foreign minister as well as a visit to an American demining training centre.

His visit will be the first by a U.S. Secretary of State to Cambodia since 1955 when John Foster Dulles travelled to South East Asia promoting the now-defunct South East Asian Treaty Organisation.

Vietnam joins ASEAN's economic powers

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (R) — Communist-Vietnam was formally admitted Friday to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), a group founded 28 years ago as a bulwark against the spread of communism.

The foreign ministers of the six member countries — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — welcomed Vietnam into their economically vibrant fold at a ceremony in the tiny oil sultanate.

They said Hanoi's inclusion would enhance stability and prosperity in the region. "The inclusion of Vietnam means a great deal more than an increase in the membership from six to seven," said Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in a welcoming speech.

"Vietnam will undoubtedly enhance the vitality and collective strength of our association," he said.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam hailed the entry of his country into the increasingly influential ASEAN as "an important event of historical significance."

"Vietnam's admission into ASEAN will pave the way for broadening her cooperation with other countries near and far," he said.

Some diplomats say the inclusion of Vietnam might test ASEAN's traditional consensus-making capabilities but they also say Vietnam's huge standing army will provide a counterbalance to China's military power in the region.

ASEAN was formed in 1967 at the height of the Vietnam War when several of its member countries were battling their own Communist insurgencies, fueling fears that they, too, might fall to Communism.

Only six years ago Thai

and Vietnamese forces clashed on the Cambodian frontier. Thailand was backed by its ASEAN partners and the West while Hanoi was supported by the former Soviet Union.

But it was Vietnam's withdrawal from war-ravaged Cambodia in 1989 that paved the way for closer ties between ASEAN and Vietnam.

The end of Asia's cold war and the introduction of sweeping market reforms in Vietnam opened the way for Hanoi to be granted ASEAN observer status in 1993.

Vietnam's official ASEAN membership, however, was almost delayed by a last-minute wrangle over its inclusion in the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

ASEAN officials said Vietnam balked at having to cut tariffs to less than five per cent by the year 2003, as required under AFTA.

Vietnam was eventually granted a three-year grace period on the tariff cuts but will have to comply by 2006.

The inclusion of Vietnam's 72 million people will expand AFTA's market, though its cheap, hard-working labour force might lure some foreign investment away from the older ASEAN members, diplomats say.

"We applaud Vietnam's single-mindedness and systematic approach to overcoming the problems of transition from a centrally-planned economy to a market economy," Singapore Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar said at the ceremony.

"With Vietnam, ASEAN's market will have 420 million consumers. This labour ASEAN market will provide opportunities for enhanced intra-ASEAN economic cooperation," he said.

"Vietnam in AFTA will ensure that AFTA remains a dynamic engine of growth contributing to the prosper-

ity of the Asia-Pacific," he said.

Cambodia became an official observer Friday at the ASEAN, setting a goal of full membership within two years.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Ung Huot, emerging from an official ceremony with Prince Mohammadolkhai, foreign minister of Brunei, said he was pleased Cambodia had been made an observer just six months after applying.

There was no timetable for full membership as yet. "The shortest would be one year. The longest would be two. So in between," he said.

Mr. Ung Huot said Phnom Penh would also be sending a letter "very soon" to seek membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

The decision had been taken and the letter would be sent before the APEC meeting in Osaka in November, he said.

In ASEAN, Cambodia was looking for help in development projects as well as for a "tremendous potential market," the minister said.

Asked what Cambodia, still struggling from the effects of decades of civil war, could contribute to ASEAN, Mr. Ung Huot said: "Cambodia already had a big contribution to ASEAN, to peace and stability in the region."

For 10 years, until the Paris peace agreement was signed in 1991, ASEAN spent a lot of time talking about Cambodia and trying to promote a settlement, he noted.

Now the problem has been solved and, he said, "that's a big contribution already made to ASEAN, to allow time for ASEAN to think about more economic development and cooperation."

Burma applied Thursday for observer status, and Laos,

already an observer, is expected to announce a timetable Saturday for full membership.

ASEAN has said it hopes to group all 10 states of South East Asia and Indochina by 2000.

Meanwhile, the Association of South East Asian Nations called Friday for the lifting of the arms embargo Bosnia, joining a growing number of organisations demanding that Bosnian Muslims be allowed to defend themselves.

Ministers from the seven-member organisation expressed their "profound anguish at the failure and paralysis of the U.N. mission" in Bosnia, according to a statement released here.

In the special statement, they condemned Bosnian Serbs for their seizure of the United Nations safe areas of Srebrenica and Zepa as well as attacks on Bihac, Gorazde and Sarajevo.

"The foreign ministers accept the right of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and the legitimate right of the government of Bosnia to request and receive military assistance."

Among member nations, the Muslim countries Malaysia and Indonesia have led the push to lift the embargo, which has hampered the capacity of Bosnian government forces to defend themselves against Serb attacks. ASEAN called on the United Nations to step up its role in Bosnia and said the ministers regretted the "failure of the U.N. Security Council to find a just and durable settlement."

The statement also condemned the "blatant attacks" by Serbs on the U.N. Protection Force

Russians, Chechens are still a long way from peace deal

MOSCOW (AFP) — After more than a month of negotiations Russia and the Chechen separatists are still a long way from an accord on Chechnya's political status as both sides prepare to resume peace talks in Grozny.

Moscow has announced it is ready to sign a military accord before resolving the problem of Chechnya's status, but deepening divisions on the Chechen side threaten to undermine the peace process.

In an broadcast on clandestine Chechen television last Sunday separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev said the negotiators had no authority to resolve the issues under discussion.

Chechen delegation chief Usman Imaev did not attend the last session of talks Tuesday. A member of the Chechen delegation said Mr. Imaev had gone to consult further with Mr. Dudayev.

Arkady Volsky, a senior member of the Russian delegation, told the daily Izvestia he was "personally worried about the future of Imaev."

"On the last day of talks he simply disappeared. Basically anything could happen with him. Still I hope he went to talk to Dudayev and he returns safely. As for the authority he has — that's another question," Mr. Volsky said.

According to Michael McFaul, a political analyst at the Carnegie Endowment, a Moscow think-tank, splits on the Chechen side are all to Moscow's advantage.

"The Russians probably want to co-opt a group (of Chechens) and distance them from the radicals," he told AFP.

"It's a good strategy for the Russians to deal with other things first, but the issue of whether Chechnya is in or out (of the Russian Federation) still remains at the end of the tunnel," he said.

The question of Chechnya's status — whether it will be recognised as independent or remain part of the Russian Federation — has proved the major stumbling block delaying any deal to end the war in which between 15,000 and 30,000 people have died.

Russian troops stormed into Chechnya on Dec. 11 to quell a three-year secessionist movement.

Peace talks opened on June 19 after Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin negotiated a deal with Chechen guerrillas who took 1,500 people hostage in the southern Russian town of Budennovsk.

In the run-up to Russia's December parliamentary elections, prolonging the negotiations could be a useful tactic for Mr. Chernomyrdin, Mr. McFaul suggested.

The peace talks "may be a good way for Chernomyrdin to avoid another Budennovsk," he said.

In exchange for the hostages' release, Mr. Chernomyrdin negotiated safe passage for the guerrillas back to Chechnya and the opening of peace talks, ending a bloody stand-off in

which around 150 people died.

The difficulty of getting the various Chechen factions to agree on a deal with the Russians is also likely to delay any peace settlement.

In an interview published Tuesday by the daily Sevodnya, Shamil Basayev, who led the hostage-taking, said Chechen army chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov and Mr. Imaev "don't have the right to sign anything opposing Chechen independence."

"If they do that, I will execute them," he warned.

Vyacheslav Mikhailov, head of the Russian delegation, said this week that "Russia is prepared to content itself with signing a military accord which could contain some political elements."

The main thing now "is to get the hostilities to stop and to create the conditions necessary for holding democratic elections in the republic," he said. Moscow wants the elections to be held in November.

The two sides signed a protocol on military issues a month ago, but a final accord still has to be signed to implement it.

The protocol envisaged the separation of forces, progressive disarmament of separatist troops, the gradual retreat of Russian forces, an exchange of prisoners and an indefinite ceasefire.

Although the ceasefire is broadly respected, neither side has begun to disarm or withdraw, and only a handful

of prisoners have been exchanged.

Russia controls most of Chechnya's lowland areas. Russian Defence Ministry officials said Friday two Russian soldiers had been killed and one wounded by Chechen separatists in the past 24 hours.

Interfax quoted the ministry in Moscow as saying one soldier had been killed in the Chechen capital Grozny by sniper fire. In a second serviceman died in a sooty-trap explosion which also wounded another soldier.

Russian troops are negotiating with Chechens who attempted to smuggle arms from Dagestan into the neighbouring republic of Chechnya, according to the military sources, quoted by ITAR-TASS Friday.

The Chechens, who allegedly bought the arms in Azerbaijan, took a civilian hostage, whose nationality was not specified, but released him Friday afternoon, the sources said.

But the situation remained deadlocked as a Russian commander negotiated with six men — including at least four Chechens — to persuade them to give themselves up.

A helicopter which attempted to draft in Russian troop reinforcements was involved in an accident, injuring one person, the sources added.

They denied that the helicopter could have been shot down by the alleged smugglers, saying they did not have any anti-aircraft weapons.

Japan's finance minister to decide future today

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura told New York Sakigake leaders Friday that he wanted more time to consider whether he should withdraw his resignation as party leader, a party official said.

"I would like time to think it over if possible," the official quoted Mr. Takemura as saying during a special meeting of party leaders.

But the official was unable to confirm a report that the finance minister wanted to sleep on it before making up his mind Saturday.

Mr. Takemura was quoted as saying by Tiji Press that he wanted "to think about it for a night" before deciding whether to withdraw the resignation submitted Thursday. "I'll tell you my conclusions tomorrow," he reportedly said.

Members of the party, the smallest in the three-party

coalition of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, appear keen for Mr. Takemura to stay on.

"Our conclusion is to persuade him to stay," Sakigake legislator Naoto Kan was quoted as telling reporters after a 90-minute meeting Friday evening.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama reportedly said earlier that Mr. Takemura was only seeking to step down as party leader and not from the cabinet.

"He offered his resignation as the party head and not as the finance minister," Tiji quoted Mr. Murayama as saying.

The prime minister noted that the government was currently preoccupied with budget negotiations. "I want him to hang in there," Mr. Murayama said.

Mr. Murayama had earlier expressed his "concern" ab-

out the possible impact Mr. Takemura's resignation might have on the government, the news agency said.

Takemura, 60, founded Sakigake in 1993 with other defectors from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The party, which holds 21 seats in the 511-seat lower house, has been mediating in the coalition between the conservative LDP and Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Social Democratic Party (SDP).

The evening edition of the Mainichi Shimbun said Mr. Takemura offered to resign after the party's dismal performance in upper-house elections last weekend.

Mr. Takemura wants another Sakigake member to both lead the party and serve as a cabinet minister so he can devote more time to domestic politics, the newspaper said, quoting ruling

party sources.

The Mainichi said Mr. Takemura was hoping to establish a third political force to challenge the two conservative parties now dominating Japan, the LDP and the opposition Shinshinto, which has replaced the SDP as the second-largest party.

Mr. Takemura said earlier Friday he had no intention of resigning after a senior Finance Ministry official was found to have signed a contract with an adviser to a Japanese businessman involved in a massive loan scandal.

The official, 53-year-old Yoshio Nakajima, was dismissed as head of the ministry institution of fiscal and monetary policy and relegated to the ministry's secretariat. The ministry later said he had resigned.

French plea that tests are safe falls on deaf ears

CANBERRA (R) — Australia has rejected France's plea in a letter to a local newspaper Friday that its nuclear tests were safe and vowed to push for a statement of condemnation at a regional security forum next week.

French Foreign Minister Hervé De Charette took the unusual step of writing an open letter to the Sydney Morning Herald daily to reject as unfair claims that the tests were unsafe.

But Foreign Minister Gareth Evans rejected Mr. De Charette's assertion and, along with Canada's Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet, said he would push for a statement of condemnation from next week's ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meeting in Brunei.

Stepping up a public relations campaign to combat outrage in the South Pacific against the tests, Mr. De Charette said the criticism

was unfair. "Misgivings on the issue are understandable, but must be dispelled," he said in his letter, published on the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald.

"France also regards herself as a South Pacific state," he said.

"This is the reason why, to put it frankly, we find the criticisms levelled against us regarding the impact of nuclear tests on the environment quite unfair, as French engineers and experts have always taken great care not to be liable to reproach in this field."

The letter followed a media tour Tuesday of its nuclear test site on the Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia, where France plans to carry out eight underground nuclear tests between September and May.

French President Jacques

Chirac's announcement of the tests last month after a four-year halt sparked a wave of official and public criticism around the world.

Mr. Evans told reporters he did not accept French assurances about the safety of the tests and said he would still lobby strongly for a condemnation from the 18 members of the ARF.

The ARF, formed to discuss regional security issues, convenes next week as part of a round of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) meetings underway in Brunei.

"It would be very helpful if we could come out of the forum not only with a discussion on a statement of concern about the continuation of nuclear tests in the Pacific, but a very strong affirmation of the need for an immediate negotiation of a comprehensive test ban treaty," Mr. Evans said.

"We've looked at the tentative resolution and we hope that the resolution will be accepted by all the participants," Mr. Ouellet told reporters after a meeting with Mr. Evans.

But Evans warned that Chinese and European representatives at the ARF might resist.

"With China being one of the participants in the process and with others there from Europe ... it may not be easy to get that result," Mr. Evans said.

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Meaningless threats

WHILE THE U.S. Congress decided on Thursday to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia, the Muslim countries, who threatened a week ago to adopt a similar measure, are still having second thoughts about it.

The Serbs had been killing Muslims, raping their women and massacring them over a long period of time while the Muslim states, and the world at large, are still considering what steps to take to halt Serb aggression. All that they did so far was issuing statements of condemnation and denouncement. The international community kept watching as Bosnians, defenceless and armless, were subjected to ferocious attacks and massacres that can never be accepted nor overlooked in this day and age.

It is sad to note that the U.N. and NATO have so far proven incapable of offering any meaningful defence to the victims of the Bosnian war. It is also unfortunate that they left the situation deteriorate to this extent.

Even the belated NATO warning to use air power to frustrate any additional attacks by the Serbs on the remaining U.N. declared safe havens is too little and too late. If NATO could not deliver on earlier commitments, then why should the Serbs and the Bosnians now take more seriously the new warnings and threats?

There is no doubt that both the U.N. and the NATO have goofed on this crisis and they will be held accountable for this colossal mismanagement of a conflict right in the heart of Europe. The international community and specifically the Muslims, should also be held accountable for the heinous Serb crimes.

The least that the international community should do, and the Muslim states in particular, is to allow the Bosnians an opportunity to defend themselves. The Muslim states threats to lift the arms embargo definitely give impetus to countries all over the world to take similar action. This in turn could prop the Europeans, the U.S. and the U.N. to at last take meaningful action.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i expressed the view that the longer Israel delays the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo deal the more will be the suffering not only for the Palestinians but also for the Israelis. Sultan Al Hattab said that as the Israelis drag their feet over the execution of the Oslo agreement, extremist elements in the Palestinian ranks are bound to carry more attacks in the heart of the Israeli society. Indeed, said the writer, the bus explosions near Tel Aviv and other similar attacks on innocent civilians benefit no party at all and it is imperative on the Israeli government to speed up the peace process and give the Palestinians their rights and their lands in order to reduce chances for such tragedies on both sides. Let us hope that the Israeli government, which has declared its intention to go ahead with negotiations with the Palestinians, will speed up the process of giving the Palestine National Authority control over the Palestinian territory and gain credibility in the eyes of the peace loving people instead of their wrath, added the writer. Once the Palestinians have regained their rights and their lands, they will taste peace and only then will they fight with all their might to protect the peace and prevent extremist elements from wrecking it, concluded the writer.

A WRITER in Al Dustour said that the government's recent measures to control the local labour market place the Ministry of Labour face to face with its responsibilities to evict the illegal foreign workers so that the way can be opened for the Jordanian job-seekers to get employment. According to an official statement from a ministerial committee entrusted with dealing with the guest workers issue, there are 180,000 non-Jordanians living in the Kingdom with no work permits and therefore, said the writer, the Labour Ministry is required to find a way to deal with them promptly and order them to leave the country, said Mohammad Daoud. Not only are these persons illegally present in Jordan seeking jobs that could be filled by Jordanians, but also they could turn into criminals, added the writer. He said that the government took a wise decision by identifying those jobs that should not be filled by non-Jordanians and the next step should be to evict the illegal and unemployed foreign workers from the country to save the Kingdom further trouble and to open the way for the concerned authorities to control the labour market.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Western credibility is second victim of Serb aggression

ALL OF us in Jordan should hail and welcome the United States Senate move to lift the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina which comes at the proper time to rectify the deteriorating situation there where the United Nations Security Council has abdicated its authority to protect and defend a state recognised and admitted to the General Assembly as a member state. The second "European Holocaust" should not leave us as neutral observers witnessing the heinous crimes and acts of genocide committed daily by Serb terrorists and war criminals.

Another safe haven — Bihac — is about to fall to Serb forces which are advancing, as reported, to commit there what they had done in Srebrenica a few weeks ago: massacres, mutilations, random shooting and rape.

The incredible atrocities committed in Srebrenica were the reason why few people were surprised when some United Nations investigators started to resign in protest against the apathetic U.N. role in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A year ago, some honest American State Department desk officers also resigned when Washington took no action regarding the genocide of Muslims in former Yugoslavia. It has become clear that the United Nations should be held responsible for all the war crimes committed by Serb terrorists.

The London conference two weeks ago did not deter General Ratko Mladic from overrunning the enclave of Zepa, which was declared by the United Nations a "safe haven." His militias committed there the same atrocities which Srebrenica, another safe haven, had witnessed ten days before.

Muslim villages and "safe havens" there have been transformed to actual hell by the endless and merciless artillery shelling.

What is surprising is that the United Nations Security Council and NATO feel the need to meet again and again and convene a "contact group" conference without knocking down one Serb tank or an artillery position.

Had NATO's several ultimatums during the last two years been followed by one action, the humanitarian disasters at Zepa and Srebrenica would have been averted. I do not believe that NATO and the Security Council were short-sighted enough or naive enough to think that their ultimatums would deter the Serbs who enjoy the undeclared support of many Orthodox fanatics in Russia and Greece.

Serbs have managed so far to take and control 70 per cent of Bosnia-Herzegovina territory.

One asks the often-though question: Have the United Nations and NATO been so terribly amateurish to allow Serb tanks and artillery to surround Sarajevo and all other U.N. protected "safe havens"?

I do not believe they were ever really serious about

stopping Serb aggression.

After 41 months of Serb aggression and more than 250,000 dead, more than two million people made refugees and dispossessed, hundreds of women raped, thousands of houses, schools, mosques, churches, roads, and bridges destroyed, European Union leaders are still engaged in high-flown declarations and verbal promises backed up by non-action.

It is no surprise, as mentioned earlier, that the United Nations investigators resigned in protest against the U.N. inconsistency regarding the Serb genocide in Srebrenica. Nobody forgets that the United Nations and the European Union verbally condemned the Serb ethnic cleansing as genocide yet agreed to turn over to the same terrorists the Bosnian land.

The U.N. secretary general met and shook hands with the same war criminals. Karadzic and Mladic, who committed acts of genocide.

It was not mere coincidence that refugees were moved to six "havens," the safety of which was not guaranteed by proper military personnel or equipment to defend them. Earlier, the United Nations Security Council rejected offers of peacekeeping forces from certain Muslim countries and yet quickly accepted Russian and Ukrainian forces friendly to the Serbs, thus allowing Russia to resume playing big power politics in Europe.

The world's double standards, bluff and contradiction are not appropriate in describing the NATO stands there.

It is heinous to allow two safe havens to fall to the Serb aggressor. Following Zepa and Srebrenica other safe areas are far from safe. These include Bihac and Gorazde.

It is no surprise that President Ali Izetbegovic called on U.S. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to resign. It was Dr. Ghali who turned down, a year ago, a request by Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, then U.N. force commander, to launch air strikes against Serb tanks and artillery positions whenever safe havens are attacked. Had that request been granted then, there would have been a real deterrence to the daily onslaught on Bosnians.

When the United Nations cannot honour the provisions of its own charter to protect and defend member countries from naked aggression and crimes against humanity, we must wonder about the efficiency of that organisation to achieve peace with justice. Small countries must ask whether it is still sane to remain members of the United Nations. If the danger we see at the moment in former Yugoslavia spills over to the lower Balkans, then nobody can stop that avalanche of violence, bloodshed and regional wars. Lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina will allow a coalition of Croat and Bosnian forces to defend themselves and, at the same time, thwart the irredentist designs of "Greater Orthodox Serbia" advocates.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Bosnian tragedy further exposes hypocrisy of Western world

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic daily newspapers last week focused on the Bosnian war, Jordan's leading role in providing assistance to the war victims and the Middle East question in addition to domestic affairs.

Al Dustour daily welcomed a U.S. Senate decision to lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia as a victory for a just cause. The Senate took the right decision, said the paper, opening the way for Bosnia to arm itself for self-defence in the face of the barbaric attacks by the Serbs. But the decision remains symbolic unless practical steps are taken for arming the Bosnian forces, something which the Islamic nation ought to achieve in addition to other non-Muslim countries, said the daily.

A writer in Al Ra'i described the massacring of women and children in Bosnia as a new Nazi era reborn in the former republic of Yugoslavia. Sultan Al Hattab said the Western nations, which continue to drag about democracy and human rights and that they are immune against neo-Nazi practices, have been exposed as the world began to realise that their false statements were used as a means to avert taking any action to help the victims of aggression and so protect their own credibility. The writer called on the Islamic nation to take the initiative and call for a summit meeting to decide the form of assistance they wish to extend to their brothers and sisters in Bosnia.

Ever since the start of the tragedy in Bosnia, the Western countries have been claiming that they will take practical steps to put an end to the atrocities committed by the Serbs. But it turned out after the London conference that Western statements were all false, said Saleh Al Qalab in Al Dustour. The writer said that the Western powers proved to be cheating the world with their statements and their fake sadness over the ordeal of the Bosnian people. The world has been hearing statements of condemnation against the Serbs but no real action to

stop their aggression has been taken, something which opened the world's eyes to Western hypocrisy, added the writer.

A writer in Al Dustour singled out Russia as a major hostile force against the Arabs and Muslims. While trying to protect its interests in the Arab World, Russia is at the same time siding by the Serbs against the Muslims and continuing its war against the Muslim Chechens, said Taher Al Adwan. The Arabs and Muslims can never forgive the Russians for their support for the Serbian crimes and their own attacks against the Muslim Chechens, said the writer, who expressed astonishment and dismay at Moscow's policies. We have been observing Moscow's stands for so long and regretfully we discovered that its actions are all directed against Arab and Muslim interests, he said.

Adding that this stand particularly surfaced in questions related to Israel, the U.N. embargo on Iraq and now the situation in Bosnia after the Russian invasion of Chechnya.

It is difficult to believe what the world is witnessing towards the end of the 20th century, said Abdulah Al Khatib, a writer in Al Dustour. We are watching a crusade waged against the Muslims and an ugly war aimed at exterminating Muslim groups in Europe, whose nations brag about democracy and human rights, said the writer. Attacking the United Nations for its failure to protect the Bosnian people, the writer said that the world organisation is in collusion with the European powers in their drive to keep Europe free of Muslims, hence the ongoing genocide in Bosnia. While the Serbs are continually receiving weapons from the Eastern as well as the Western countries, the Bosnian Muslims continue to face atrocities condoned by the European nations and committed by the Serbs, said the writer.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily hailed Jordan's efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the Bosnian people

saying that the Kingdom has set a good example for other nations. Describing the relief supplies flown to Bosnia as a continuation of a Jordanian strategy of rallying to help of the victims of war and disasters, the paper said that it is the turn of the other Arab and Islamic nations to follow Jordan's example and concert their efforts to help the victims of aggression. Indeed, the Jordanian stand served as a clear message of peace and solidarity with the embattled nation, said the paper.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to the war-ravaged Bosnian nation crowned Jordan's endeavours at the official and popular levels to extend a helping hand to the victims of aggression, said Al Aswad daily. Prince Hassan's trip demonstrated a genuine feeling of solidarity with the Bosnian people and reaffirmed the noble feelings of the Jordanian people towards their brothers and sisters, who face atrocities, said the daily. In contrast, said the paper, those nations which have been advocating human rights are facing a crucial test while the United Nations is expected to protect its credibility by providing protection to the victims of Serbian atrocities.

A writer in Al Ra'i likened the Jewish settlers in the West Bank to Serbian forces and their actions against the Bosnian people. Citing the situation in Hebron as an example, Sultan Al Hattab said that the settlers are trying to create safe enclaves for themselves within the heart of the city but at the same time continuing to turn their guns against the Arab population of the city. By planting settlements in occupied Arab lands, Israel is planting the seeds of continued war and confrontations and by arming the settlers, the Israelis are paving the way for the continued massacring of Arab inhabitants, said the writer. The world, which has become accustomed to the atrocities committed by the Israelis in Palestine, does not find the atrocities in Bosnia as a strange event, he added.

It is strange to hear the Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) condemning the recent bus explosion in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv as a terrorist act aimed at harming the peace process, said Yasser Za'atreh, a writer in Al Dustour. Stressing that armed struggle against occupation is legitimate under all norms and anywhere in the world, the writer said while the world watches the Zionists carrying out atrocities against the Arabs, some elements are trying to stifle the voice of resistance. How can Fateh and other factions demand that armed struggle against occupation stop at a time when Israel holds on to Jerusalem, detains thousands of Arab prisoners and refuses to repatriate the Palestinians to their own homeland? asked the writer. He said that the resistance inside the occupied lands expresses the true feelings of the oppressed Palestinians and their actions against occupation will not be affected by words of condemnation.

A writer in Al Dustour accused the extremist elements in Israel, which oppose the peace deal with the Palestinians, of perpetrating the bus explosion near Tel Aviv so as to disrupt the ongoing peace efforts. Saleh Qalab said that investigations into the explosion have so far led nowhere but there are indications that it was the work of the extremists, otherwise the Israeli government would have boycotted the talks with the Palestinians and would have clamped stricter measures on the Palestinians under its rule.

Commenting on new government measures to deal firmly with the illegal foreign workers in Jordan, a writer in Al Dustour said that evicting the illegal workers alone cannot solve the unemployment problem in Jordan. Taher Al Adwan said that there are other factors which affect the unemployment question like social and economic considerations. The writer said that the government ought to fix the minimum wages.

Peres says Palestinian Golan is Israeli

(Continued from page 1)

arrangements with Syria and the Syrians propose symmetrical security arrangements, why should Israel worry about that knowing quite well that the overall balance of power is in its favour? A: In order to have a symmetrical security arrangement, you need two mountains, not one. When you have one mountain, you have no symmetry. It is not measured by the size of the land but by the altitude of the mountain. Clearly, whoever holds the Golan Heights has an advantage, not only for an attack but for an early warning. Now if Israel gives up most of the Golan Heights, she clearly loses an advantage, and we would like to be sure that we have the necessary compensation to maintain an early warning state. Q: But you must be aware of the Syrian military capabilities compared to those of Israel?

A: You never judge military capabilities without judging military logic. We are not sure who will rule Syria in let's say the next 20 years, or what will be its reasons. You know, some people go to war even though they know they don't have a chance to win it. We don't want wars, and we don't want to be surprised, because surprise is a weapon too. And for that reason, we need an early warning system and a permanent one which is not qualified by the political climate.

Q: Do you have a fixed vision as to how the region will look like in the post settlement era?

A: Look, I'm telling our friends, and may I say that, among the different negotiators I met in the Middle East, the Jordanian ones are the most understanding of the dilemma we are all facing. The problem is how to enter the 21st century with a market economy, with a science-based industry, with an open political mind. And we are telling our Arab neighbours and our friends: Take an example from Asia. They were dormant, almost backward countries, and look what they did in five to ten years. They have revolutionised themselves, and I'm not talking only about Singapore and Taiwan, I'm talking about Thailand and Korea.

Look what happened in five to ten years. We don't understand why the Arab World doesn't understand this, because what the others have done, everybody can do, instead of the military skirmishes and spending so much money on the military, wars and prestige. They (in Asia) invested in education, they adopted market economies, opened up their borders. And today, to the surprise of everybody, what used to be once the Third World, is becoming one of the most vibrant economies in the world. Why can't it happen in the Middle East?

We don't understand. In our judgement, if the leadership in the Arab countries will not do it, fundamentalists will take over. It is either progress or backwardness. And I would consider it very tragic if the Middle East becomes the backyard of the world. Nobody will wait for us. And all this talk about Arab economy: the economy today is not national, nor ethnic. Today, markets are more telling than countries. And it is available to everybody. The sources of modern strength and wealth are neither territorial, nor material nor national. They are scientific, technological and informational. So, we have no borders, no sovereignties, no distances. And I hope there will be a new leadership in the Arab World that will understand this. It is not a tragedy for Israel, but for the Arab World if things stay at a standstill and the standards of living in the Arab World remain low. You know, people misinterpret the concept of a new Middle East. It is a Middle East in a new age. And some people say Israel wants to integrate itself in the Middle East. That is not a problem, the problem is whether the Middle East wants to integrate itself in a new age which already exists all over the world. I want to emphasise that the Israeli economy is not dependent on the Middle East. We produce today 80 billion dollars a year, which is double as much as Saudi Arabia, and we generate it from the brain not from natural resources, and everybody can do that. We are very surprised by the amount of suspicious and old-fashioned accusations. Today, no ruler is stronger than the television and no iron curtain can stop

the silver curtain. So it is a matter of time. From our perspective, Assad wasted 18 years. Had he come the same time that Sadat did, he would have had everything like Sadat did. What did he gain in these 18 years? I want to understand.

Q: What is Israel's interpretation of the clause in the peace treaty concerning Jerusalem? A: Whatever role Jordan has had in Jerusalem will be respected and it is respected, unless Jordan will give it up. It is her choice. But we shall respect the religious status quo in which Jordan has and has a saying. You see, there are two aspects about Jerusalem: One is Palestinian and relates itself to Jerusalem politically, and the other is the Muslim world as it relates to Jerusalem religiously. One may even say that I'm not so sure that all the Muslim countries would like to see the Palestinians as their agents from a religious point of view. What we are saying is that Jerusalem should be religiously open to all. Politically, it won't be a Berlin. We are not going to put a wall in the city. We are not going to make two cities in one city or two capitals in one city. It doesn't make any sense. Today there is a clear Jewish majority in Jerusalem. You have 550,000 residing in Jerusalem out of whom only 150,000 are Arabs carrying, by the way, Jordanian passports. We have to respect their rights, their individual rights, political rights, but we are not going to cut the city in two politically. Religiously it will be open to everybody.

Q: Are you offering Israeli passports to Palestinians in East Jerusalem?

A: Yes, to whoever wants. But very few are applying. We are giving them two things: The rights of a resident, namely to participate in the municipal elections and the option of citizenship.

Q: I heard the applicants have been increasing of late?

A: Yes, hundreds of thousands but not very many. I wouldn't take it as a political tendency.

Q: Is it a vote of no confidence in the Palestinian authority?

A: It is a free choice. We are not going to force anybody.

Q: Jordan is worried about your excavations under the Aqsa Mosque.

A: First of all, we are very careful with that. There are no excavations. There is a tunnel which goes to the Via de la Rosa which exists in fact. By opening it, it will facilitate the movement of people, nobody is talking about excavations. But since the story is a delicate issue, we are not in a hurry. We usually respect fully the rights and needs and feelings of every religion.

Q: The purpose of the transitional phase before reaching final status talks is to carry out confidence building measures. But it is increasingly obvious that there is no confidence being built in the interim between you and the Palestinians. Why not get directly into the final status?

A: First of all, I'm not sure I agree with you. For example in Gaza, there is a different mood already. It is beginning to emerge as a success. And there is a building sense of freedom, it is an entirely different mood in Gaza, it is a success. If you go to a permanent solution now, you cannot move at all. It is suggesting to make your way by jumping instead of making your way by walking. Jumping, but it is so tiring that you can hardly negotiate your way.

Q: The Arab states are worried about your refusal to join the (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) NPT. What assurances can you offer the people of the Middle East about Israel's nuclear capabilities?

A: If people are worried about the NPT, let them judge us by our policies. If we are so strong why did we give up lands. To the contrary, we can be generous in our policies because we are strong in our security. There is no other country in the world that would do what we are doing, including the peace with Jordan which we are happy with. We gave Jordan back every inch of land, everything. Why did we do it? We could have stood and said we are a nuclear power and God knows what. But why should the Arab World worry from us. We are the ones who are worried from fundamentalism and

(Continued on page 7)

Fea

Text and by Rami Special Jordan

This is the two-part series on the excavations of the Greco-Roman Part two tomorrow's

THE GERMAN Institute of the excavations of the Greco-Roman (m Qais) have uncovered new monuments from the past five years. The direction of the Institute, Susanne Kerckhove, has several new ancient structures, which have fill in important parts of the history of the earliest Hellenistic walls, the domestic quarters, and the water tunnels and through the city. Visitors to the newly excavated site can start at the old dig houses around the city wall, and the excavations against the east wall of the city wall with the remains of a 2nd century BC city wall with the wall and foundations of the 4th century BC. This area was built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian (Berlin) a national University.

The corners are still visible, showing the use of its section of the city wall yet the Umm Qais.

Excavations at Umm Qais have retrieved considerable remains from the late 4th century BC, but the city walls date to the 2nd century BC.

The city seen from the military colony, 4th century BC, under the Greco-Roman ruler Ptolemy, as military outpost, century-long, the north Syrian, the city wall yet the Umm Qais.

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Features

Text and Photos
by Rami G. Khouri
Special to the
Jordan Times

This is the first of a two-part series about recent archaeological excavations at Umm Qais, Greco-Roman Gadara. Part two appears in tomorrow's newspaper.

THE GERMAN Protestant Institute for Archaeology of the Holy Land's excavations since 1974 at the Greco-Roman city of Gadara (modern Umm Qais) have systematically uncovered major monuments from this large and important site. During the past five years, under the direction of German Protestant Institute Director Susanne Kerner, the excavations have uncovered several new kinds of ancient structures and facilities that have started to fill in important blanks in the history of this region: substantial sections of the earliest Hellenistic city walls, the first Roman domestic quarter ever excavated at Umm Qais or anywhere else in Jordan, evidence of the Hasmonean sacking of the city in the 1st century BC, and two long water tunnels carved into and through the hill beneath the citadel.

Visitors to the site interested in seeing some of the newly excavated areas can start at the Beit Malkawi dig house and walk around the citadel in a clockwise direction. Excavations against the external east wall of Beit Malkawi have uncovered the remains of a section of the 2nd century BC Hellenistic city wall with a tower; the Ottoman era villagers used the wall and tower as foundations for their home. This area was excavated by Adolf Hoffman of the German Archaeological Institute (Berlin) and the Technical University of Cottbus.

The corners of the tower are still visible in the excavation trench, clearly showing the well-cut stones used in its construction. This is the best preserved section of the Hellenistic city wall yet discovered at Umm Qais. The excavations at Umm Qais have retrieved considerable pottery remains from as early as the late 4th/early 3rd century BC, but the earliest city walls date only from the 2nd century BC.

The city seems to have been first established as a military colony in the late 4th century BC by Alexander the Great's Egyptian-based successors, the Ptolemies, as a strategic military outpost in the century-long conflict with the north Syria-based Hellenistic power, the Seleucids. Historical accounts tell us of the Seleucid King Antiochus III's siege of the city in 218 BC, and of the Jewish Hasmonean leader Alexander Jannaeus' 10-month siege of the city in the early 1st century BC. The Roman General Pompey conquered the region in 63 BC and brought it under the jurisdiction of Imperial Rome, where it flourished as a wealthy city renowned for its arts.

Heading towards the south-west from near the entrance of Beit Malkawi, the visitor can see another section of the city wall that was cleaned but not excavated; this is also thought to date from the Hellenistic period. The city and its fortification walls kept expanding westwards in antiquity. Further to the west, along the south-west side of the Ottoman village, is a large excavation trench with the remains of a large arrow-shaped tower that joins the city walls near the existing Ottoman era houses. The two storey tower, still sporting the remains of two arrow slits, included interior rooms used by soldiers. It is thought to date from the late 2nd century BC, reflecting one of the earliest westward expansions of the walled Hellenistic town on the citadel.

The top of the tower today is almost at ground level, but in antiquity the ground level was nearly five metres lower, as can be seen in the deep excavation trench. The ground level has risen in the past two millennia due to the continuous erosion of soil down the hill, from east to west. (This trench also reveals the problem of displaying excavated structures for the public's enjoyment in a safe manner. The excavators used some of the large old stone blocks to form a protective fence around the five-metre-deep trench, to prevent people from accidentally falling into it, but the stones have been repeatedly dumped back into the trench by unknown vandals).

Well south of this tower, down the hill near the paved road, the excavators found enormous quantities of ancient pottery sherds; in just 10 days of work they collected over 20,000 pieces of shiny Hellenistic pottery — but no other material remains. This led them to conclude that this was an ancient Hellenistic pottery dump or pit which collected the debris thrown down from over the city walls. Much of the pottery from this area dates from the early 3rd and 2nd centuries BC, making it the earliest known material from Umm Qais. Interestingly enough, only this



The three-apsed building that may have been a Byzantine church. One of the two grave-like cut holes in the ground is visible in the centre-foreground.

German excavations continue to clarify long historical development of Gadara (Umm Qais)

shows evidence of the destruction and rebuilding of Gadara in the early 1st century BC. The destruction is probably that of the Hasmonean Alexander Jannaeus' taking of Gadara in 75 BC. The rubble outside the south side of the

ground level, with its ancient construction techniques clearly visible today. Its top courses are made of criss-crossing stones called headers and stretchers, with fill in between, while its bottom three foundation courses that protrude slightly beyond the plane of

Another Byzantine church? Just a few metres to the north-east of this wall trench, against the external west walls of the Ottoman village/citadel, is an area crowded with walls of many different sizes and shapes, dating from the 2nd cen-

northern and southern apses.

Because there was only about 10 centimetres of dirt above the bedrock, no material evidence was found in this building that could help to date it. Its similarity to the three-apsed church comprising the earliest structure at Mt. Nebo suggests this may be part of a Byzantine church, and the holes in the ground may have been graves, which were commonly located within churches in the early Byzantine period. A simple mosaic floor was excavated a few metres south-west of the three-apsed building. The rest of the walls in this area, some of which retain their original plastering, date from the Mamluke period.

Heading west from here down the hill towards the street, the visitor will pass a large stone doorway facing west, inside of which are remnants of stairs. These stairs lead down into an underground complex of four interconnected Roman era cisterns that were reused during the Ottoman period. Slightly further south-west of the doorway and cisterns, at ground-level just above the modern paved road, is the top of an ancient wall that was cleaned but not excavated. This wall, constructed of headers and stretchers with a rubble core in between, is probably a Roman period wall dating from yet another westward extension of the city. It is wider than, but not as well made as, the earlier Hellenistic walls.

Rare Roman houses Immediately above street level, beyond the far south-west corner of the Ottoman citadel, are three terraces with remains of ancient

housing quarters — some of the most important discoveries at Umm Qais in recent years. The highest terrace, with its large black basalt pavement, reflects the historical pattern of human use that is common in the housing quarters uncovered to date: a Hellenistic foundation, late Roman use as housing units, a long gap of several centuries and then reuse in the late Byzantine (6th century AD) and Umayyad periods.

This was an industrial domestic area in the 6th century AD, judging from the excavated remains of many cisterns, cooking materials and two ovens (one a tabun, or cooking oven). A cistern mouth and a plastered water storage basin are visible in the north-east corner, near the hillside. One of the puzzles that Ms. Kerner and her colleagues will try to resolve is why the area was used intensively but for only a brief period in the Byzantine period and then abandoned.

The second and lower terrace, crowned by a beautiful olive tree that the excavators carefully dug around, shows remains of a two-storey domestic structure with steps leading down to a subterranean basement. The walls are Roman and late Byzantine, but dense collections of Hellenistic pottery were excavated in parts of these trenches.

The third and lowest terrace alongside the paved road at the west of the citadel hill is dominated by the standing remains of a 13-metre-long terrace wall that runs almost parallel to the road, with right angles in it near the road. It was built in the Hellenistic period, but reused and rebuilt in the Roman period; the upper courses are Roman in date. A big squarish cut into the bedrock may be an unfinished Hellenistic tomb, now sporting a later Roman wall passing through it.

A large round structure standing nearly three metres high alongside the road is probably a lime oven, used to make a common plastering/decorative material in ancient times. Its floor is made of nicely packed single stones that would have been sealed with a clay cover. The three courses of stone above the floor have been burnt to a white/blue colour by the high heat. Just above them are slightly protruding stones that start to form a dome, perhaps covering the burning chamber. Similar ovens have been excavated at Jerash, but this one is not well dated because of the absence of material remains that could help to date it.

Outside the big terrace wall is a series of eight different rooms dating from the early Roman period, around 50 BC-150 AD. The walls were once plastered and painted, and some bits of red and green paint are still visible on plastered corners. The excavators were able to retrieve many crates of plastering painted in marble imitation patterns.

Numerous small channels in the housing area, formed a drainage system that kept the terrace wall dry and stable. The channels fed into an 18 x 8-metre plastered cistern that is now mostly beneath the street.



The "tip" of the arrow-shaped tower from the Hellenistic city wall. A narrow arrow slit is visible five

courses down, towards the bottom-right of the face of the tower.

area produced this early material, while the rest of the site only produced pottery and other material remains from the 2nd century BC and later.

Just outside the very south-west corner of the Ottoman village/citadel is an excavated wall at

the wall are rows of headers, without fill. It was also excavated by Dr. Hoffman.

This wall, originally built in the late 2nd century BC as the town expanded to the west, is historically noteworthy because it

wall, in the east part of the unexcavated balk, shows some destruction debris, probably from that attack. The wall was consequently repaired. This is a rare instance where an ancient historical event can be clearly documented in an archaeological dig.

tury BC to the 14th century AD. Right up against the citadel wall, in the north-east corner of this area, is a building with three large semi-circular apses forming its north, south and east walls, with two grave-like rectangular holes cut into the bedrock in front of the

Peres says Palestinian Golan is Israeli

(Continued from page 6)

Iran. We need the nuclear ambiguity basically because of Iran and fundamentalism. We are not worried from Jordan and Jordan shouldn't be worried from us. The same with Egypt. But we are worried from Iran, and we don't see any reason why should we come to Iran and say you shouldn't be worried from us. And if you permit me to say I think Iran is the greatest danger to Arab life in the future. I don't want to mention the list of countries that Iran has on its menu, but it is a rich menu.

Q: So you still think Israel needs a nuclear deterrent? A: I didn't say that. I said that the suspicion that Israel has a nuclear deterrent is a deterrent. Amer Mousa told me why don't you permit me to go and see Dimona. I told him look, if I permit you, you will go to Dimona and find there is nothing there, you

would be at a loss. Why should you?

Q: But the whole world is convinced that you do possess nuclear weapons.

A: Good. This conviction is good enough.

Q: You are not denying that?

A: No. We have said clearly that we shall not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East.

Q: What does that mean?

A: It means that we shall not make the Middle East nuclear.

Q: Do you have suspicions that anybody else in the region is developing nuclear weapons?

A: Yes, Iran. It has enough oil and gas. They don't need any other source of energy. They are in a very poor shape economically, yet they are spending 800 million dollars to make a nuclear reactor. What for? It is written on the wall, not just an imaginary story.

Q: Is Israel willing to even-

tually join the NPT?

A: We didn't say yet yes or no.

A: We said that as long as some of the signatories are cheating like Iraq and Iran and North Korea, we do not see much of it. We said that we will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East. And in fact we are being supported by the United States, we are being tolerated by most countries.

Q: Where is Mordechai Vanunu, why was his trial so secretive?

A: It is known. Vanunu is in prison because he violated the laws of the land.

Q: But why isn't he allowed to speak?

A: He spoke already more than was necessary.

Q: What do you think of Jordanian democracy?

A: We consider the Jordanian administration as one of the most civilised in the Middle East. I don't want to insult anybody else, otherwise, I would've said the most civilised. The parliament is a new experiment in the life of Jordan, a new experience. Again the King

contributed to democracy out of his own free choice. Not many kings did it. Parliament may express in a way some internal differences which exist. But we would regret very much if it is turned into an anti-peace institution. I think we have showed our sincere feelings towards Jordan. The land is already in the hands of Jordan and the water. I don't see why should there be any suspicion between Israel and Jordan.

Q: Do you support Iraq joining the peace process?

A: The problem for us is not Iraq but Saddam Hussein. I think Iraq is equipped to play an important role in the future of the Middle East. We have our problems with Saddam Hussein who fired 49 rockets into Israel and he says he is now contemplating the 50th. We don't need neighbours like him. So we distinguish between Iraq and its leader.

Q: But wouldn't you open a dialogue with Iraq?

A: How can you open a dialogue with a man you do not trust a word he says. You have to have an exchange of

ideas not an exchange of voices. The voice of Saddam Hussein in this country means nothing.

Q: What do you think of the latest visit by the American congressman to Baghdad? Is this the beginning of a dialogue between the two sides?

A: I don't think so. I think America will stand fast in that position. I don't see any change in that policy in the near future unless there are very deep changes in Iraq itself.

Q: How do you see your standing in the forthcoming elections?

A: We shall have a tough fight. I think we shall win, but I wouldn't like to underestimate the opposition to what we are doing. We are really swimming against the stream. The strength of the opposition is in the doubts of the people towards our policies because we are introducing novel politics, and this always creates doubts and scepticism. But I'm sure we shall overcome.

Q: Would you think peace with Syria helps your

chances?

A: We cannot do it for elections. We want to have a comprehensive peace. I think the results of the elections do not depend upon peace with Syria.

Q: There is always talk about differences between you and the prime minister. What are the causes of these differences?

A: Look. Both of us are no

longer babies. We have discovered things that are greater than ourselves — that is the cause of peace which we are serving together. And as far as I'm concerned, I'm not going to trade policies for power. For me the policy of peace is the most important consideration.

Q: Did you say recently that you plan to retire soon?

A: No. that was an unfor-

tunate quotation. I said that maybe the next parliament would be my last.

Q: And reports of your nomination as secretary general for the United Nations?

A: I never suggested that myself.

Q: Did you think about it?

A: No. I'm a provincial guy ... and I would like to continue what I'm doing now.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENTS

An American firm wishes to prequalify Jordanian firms for the design/installation of surface water monitoring stations and ground water monitoring wells. Interested firms must prequalify to receive a copy of the request for proposals. Qualifying firms must demonstrate at least 10 years of experience in the design and installation of water monitoring instrumentation and stations. An information page discussing prequalification requirements may be obtained from

Room 211, Ministry of Water and Irrigation Building

The Closing date for submittal of complete qualifications statements is 12:00 o'clock noon, 12 August 1995.

AD/TECH

Amman exchange awaits debate on economic reforms

AMMAN (R) — The share market in Jordan had a quiet week ending Wednesday as investors waited for the outcome of a parliamentary debate on a package of economic reforms.

The Amman Financial Market index rose 1.7 per cent at the end of weekly trading on Wednesday, up 2.5 points to 153.3 points from the previous week, the exchange's weekly report released on Thursday showed.

The value of shares traded in the five-day period — in both the official and primary market — fell 14.5 per cent to JD 5.9 million from JD 6.9 million in the previous week.

Daily average trading volume fell to nearly JD 1.2 million from JD 1.4 million the previous week.

Dealers said an upturn in market sentiment, now in a wait and see mood, hinges on investor perceptions of how Parliament will handle a coming debate over a long-delayed package of draft investment and tax laws.

The laws have been submitted by government to Parliament as priority legislation and promoted as the centerpiece of an overhauled and liberalised economic policy to improve the business climate and attract foreign investors.

The package of laws were submitted on Wednesday to the Financial Committee of Parliament for study and recommendations ahead of a full debate expected in the coming few weeks.

Bank shares, the most active sector, accounted for 47.3 per cent of weekly value on a volume of JD 2.77 million, followed by 35.6 per cent for industrials on a volume of JD 2.08 million. 16.2 per cent for services on a volume of JD 0.95 million and 0.9 per cent for insurance.

Among bank shares, a JD 6.00 rise during the week in Arab Bank was a stabilising factor. The stock — a major component of the official 60-share index — closed at JD 213.00 on large turnover of JD 1.314.140. Jordan National Bank rose 40 files to JD 4.56. The two shares alone accounted for a third of total turnover, mostly bloc sales.

In industrials, Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing rose 250 files to close at JD 5.070 and National Industries shed 10 files to JD 1.090. Jordan Cement rose 40 files to close at JD 3.680.

In services, Jordan Electric Power rose 40 files during the week to JD 1.650.

In the week, 3,862 orders were executed for 2.2 million shares. Forty seven shares were higher, 25 lower and 16 unchanged.

Oman seeks foreign partners to search for gold

DUBAI (R) — Oman wants foreign partners to search for gold in its rugged central hills where it now extracts half a tonne of the metal a year and expects to discover more, a ministry statement said.

Oman is dwarfed by South Africa, the world's biggest gold producer of around 550 tonnes per year, and in the Gulf by Saudi Arabia, whose larger of two mines produced 5.1 tonnes in 1994.

But Oman has made gold and mineral industries a priority in diversifying its economy and opening it to foreign investors.

"The future role which foreign companies and investors can play in Oman's gold sector is possible through joint ventures in the exploration and exploitation of gold," the Oman Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals said in a statement.

It said Oman has proven gold deposits at Hail Al Safil and Rakah, about 200 km from the capital Muscat.

But it is only extracting gold from Rakah, where reserves of 507.061 tonnes with an average gold yield of 5.24 grammes per tonne lie beneath the rugged hills and dry river beds.

"With the existing rate of extraction the total life of the project is estimated to be (about) six years," the ministry said. "However, it is expected to increase with the discovery of new deposits as a result of continuous exploration activities. Exploration activities are continuing to discover new (gold) deposits," the ministry said.

Salim Mohammad Shaban, deputy minister for petroleum and minerals, said in March that Oman's relatively small minerals and metals industry could contribute to diversification away from oil, of which it produces about 800,000 barrels per day.

Industry sources said the Oman Oil Co. is looking at investing in gold and copper projects in Kazakhstan, where annual average gold output is 15 to 16 tonnes.

Oman has already signed two deals with foreign partners this year. Australia's World Geoscience Corp., a subsidiary of Aerodata Holdings Adm. Co., and Japan's International Cooperation Agency are both to start aerial surveys by October to help develop gold, copper and other resources.

Oman's location in the Arabian Sea makes it well-placed to sell refined gold, such as in the form of small investment bars, to India, the single largest gold market in the world.

Abu Dhabi non-oil trade down 9% in first half

ABU DHABI (R) — The value of United Arab Emirates (UAE) member Abu Dhabi's non-oil trade fell nine per cent to 9.3 billion dirhams (\$2.5 billion) in the first half of 1995, official figures show.

Abu Dhabi Customs Department figures obtained by Reuters on Thursday showed this compares with the 10.2 billion dirhams (\$2.8 billion) recorded in the first six months of 1994.

Abu Dhabi, which enjoys the vast bulk of the UAE's oil wealth, is trying to diversify its oil-driven economy by encouraging industrial development.

In the first half of 1995 the value of imports dropped by 9.2 per cent to 8.8 billion dirhams (\$2.4 billion) compared with 9.7 billion (\$2.6 billion) in the first six months of 1994.

Exports amounted to 131.9 million dirhams (\$36 million) — a seven per cent fall on the 142 million (\$38.9 million) seen a year earlier.

But reexports jumped 15 per cent to 380.5 million dirhams (\$104.2 million) in the first half of 1995 on the same period in 1994, when they were worth 331 million (\$90.6 million).

Arabs press on with ambitious stock project

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states have embarked on a project to set up a network to link their stock markets to encourage cross-border investment as part of attempts to integrate their economies.

The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), which is encouraging member states to carry out reforms to remedy economic woes, has completed the first stage of the computerised stock data base at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi.

The first stage links the stock exchanges in Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait. More members are expected to join in.

"The fund hopes the remaining Arab bourses will be linked to the base so that it will cover the whole region," AMF chairman Jassim Al Manai wrote in a report Friday about the project launched early this year.

The base, set up with help from the World Bank's International Finance Corporation, gathers information about share moves, prices, supply and demand, performance of trading institutions and other indicators and distributes them to all linked bourses.

It also distributes periodic analyses of each exchange and data on economic indicators in member states.

Several other Arab nations have official bourses, including Egypt and Lebanon, while there are plans to set up more exchanges in the region.

Qatar has just approved plans to establish a stock market while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is expected to open a floor next year. Saudi Arabia shut its exchange eight years ago after Islamic opposition.

But share trading in the world's top oil producer and exporter is conducted through the most advanced bank network in the Middle East and turnover is the highest.

problems as slow growth, debt, unemployment, inflation and deficits in their budgets and balances of payments.

"We hope the stock data base will help create awareness of the importance of investment in the Arab bourses and their role in economic development," Dr. Manai said.

More than 2,500 banks and companies trade their shares in the Arab World but most of the markets have remained dull as dealing is generally restricted to nationals and traders tend to look for long-term investment.

Arab investments overseas have swelled to more than \$600 billion, triggering calls for developing regional stock markets, improving investment laws and privatising public institutions.

The AMF's second quarterly report on the stock data base showed turnover in the six linked bourses jumped by around 57 per cent to \$1.81 billion in the second quarter of 1995 from \$1.15 billion in the first quarter.

The increase was caused by a surge in dealing in Kuwait's market, where turnover soared to \$1.3 billion from \$664 million.

The report, released this week, showed more than 300 banks and companies were trading their shares in those six bourses, with a market capitalisation of \$28.8 billion.

Gulf oil products prices falling

DUBAI (R) — Prices for refined oil products in the Gulf fell for the third week in a row because of limited seasonal demand in Far East export markets and soft crude oil prices. Gulf oil traders said.

Traders said that Gulf product supplies from the region's refineries are more than adequate to meet fresh spot market demand or new buying tenders from India.

"In general the prices are weak... It's a function of crude and plenty of products being available," a trader in Bahrain said, adding that many refineries were still operating at high throughput rates.

Prices for middle distillates fell to their lowest level since the end of June as warmer seasonal weather in Japan and South Korea cut heating oil demand.

The decline was more marked in the price of naphtha which slumped to its lowest level since June 1994 of \$142 a tonne because of a downturn in global petrochemical demand.

Jet-kerosene cargoes for export to Asia were nationally assessed on a fixed price basis at \$18.95 barrel fob Gulf, down 35 cents from last week. Its discount to Mideast published price quotes held at 15 cents to 20 cents a barrel.

Gas oil (diesel) prices also edged back to around \$18.75 a barrel from \$19.15 last week and any premium to Mideast quotes has now disappeared, traders said.

Distillate prices have fallen since the India Oil Corp (IOC) awarded a major middle distillate supply tender to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) for August delivery.

This award ruled out the need for shortcovering from traders to supply India, a move which frequently results in higher spot market prices.

"Traders who have barrels now have to discount them more to sell to the (far) East or east Africa because of IOC," a trader in Dubai said.

IOC has issued additional buying tenders for high speed diesel and superior kerosene but traders say that the tenders may not be large enough to turn prices around unless IOC awards additional cargoes.

In other news — KPC will supply IOC with 1.5 million tonnes of high speed diesel and 1.08 million tonnes of superior kerosene under a new term arrangement. Gulf traders said.

KPC previously supplied 900,000 tonnes of diesel and 1.08 million tonnes of kerosene.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) markets continued to hit new 1995 lows as domestic and commercial gas use in the Far East remained in the summer doldrums. Abu Dhabi's Adgas issued a new spot tender for September loading and Saudi Aramco is expected to release a tender soon.

Official term contract prices are also to be announced in the coming days and are expected to reflect the weaker market.

Freight rates from the Gulf to the Far East increased again on a perceived tightening in available tonnage. Rates for vessels sized 30,000 tonnes taking naphtha to Japan were assessed at \$25.54 (from \$24.47), middle distillates to Singapore at \$15.08 (\$14.47) and 80,000 tonne fuel cargoes at \$6.55 (\$5.36).

Bunkers from Fujairah climbed to \$91 a tonne from \$87 last week for 180cst material and \$86 (\$81) a tonne for 380 cst.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is an ideal day and evening to join with many friends at projects which are mutually interesting. Cultivate new friends as well.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a good day to get into community tasks which you enjoy. A bigwig will be impressed by you and something fine can come of this.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Listen to suggestions given you today whereby you can advance in life, but pick out those best suited to your needs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Try to step out of that rut you are in today and use more modern methods in the business world and gain more benefits.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Contact advisors today whose views are quite different from your own. You get the right slant on how to become more successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study into new ways of becoming more efficient today at your regular line of career activities. Fellow associates could also give you good suggestions.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Make appointments with congenial friends the amusements mutually liked today. Take your mate along with you and feel happier.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) If you think more about the welfare of loved ones, there can be greater accord at home. Invite new acquaintances in and make good friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can express yourself very well today, so contact as many persons as you can and state your aims for your success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study your holdings and do whatever will improve them today and you can also add to them so that you can progress in your activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be enthused and go after your personal wishes with vim and vigor and gain them. Be most careful in motion today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day to show that you have a sense of humour. Be happier with your mate by your side.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"I can't bite your wife. My old lady gets jealous if I come home with another woman's blood on my breath."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argison

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PLIMB
O _ _ _ _
O _ _ _ _

TAFEC
_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _

DEFANE
_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _

VALBER
_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: HE WAS _____ ON _____

Yesterday's Jumble: BASSO OCCUR LIZARD SALOON
Answer: Where the motorists always get mad — AT THE "CROSS" ROADS

THE Daily Crossword by Raymond Hamel

ACROSS

- Extreme
- Jostle
- Ring stal
- Giant hunter of myth
- Socialite Mesta
- Fussy woman
- Blind
- Building wing
- Drunkard
- Ballistic missile
- Foolish
- Oppenheimer's bit
- Some grind theirs
- Rummages through
- Film producer, once
- Cautious
- Liquid measures
- Gun gp.
- Food regimen
- Lash of Westerns
- Mushroom piece
- du Diable
- Tears down
- Memorable passage
- Hunted for pearls?
- Thrash
- Young toughs
- Roughen
- Threefold
- Violinist Leopold
- Tone-up center
- Grin's stopping point?
- Biographer's aide
- Actor Wallach
- Uncanny
- Turn inside out
- Encountered
- Defame
- Clark's partner

DOWN

- Sly denizens
- Combo
- Slangy negative
- "Spare the —"
- Like a necktie
- Downs
- Actor Lew, once
- Lingene item
- Outdated
- Gardeners, at times
- "— of the Opera"
- Seaweed
- Just
- "— Afraid of —"
- Simpson trial judge
- Descended
- Ankle
- Fashion magazine
- Ham medium
- With an unflinching stare
- Nonconformist
- Taken on
- Minotaur's island
- Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"
- Looks
- Escapade
- Kind of pump
- Goes back on a promise
- Row
- Wine cask
- Close call sound
- More adorable
- Swarm
- Breathing sound
- Large landmass
- Sprite
- The humanities
- and haw
- Mineral earth
- "— Got You Under My Skin"

Puzzle solved:

S	A	F	E	S	O	P	U	S	D	O	D	O
P	L	A	S	H	L	U	S	T	I	R	O	N
E	V	I	T	A	A	R	E	A	S	L	U	M
W	A	T	E	R	E	V	E	R	Y	W	H	E
W	A	T	E	R	E	N	S	O	Q	H	O	
A	T	E	M	D	I	M	F	I	N	I	T	E
B	E	E	W	O	M	E	N	F	O	C	A	L
O	N	T	H	E	W	A	T	E	R	F	R	O
M	O	R	A	N	E	M	E	M	O	S	N	E
B	R	O	N	T	E	R	O	S	S	Y	N	
D	I	N	T	E	A	R						
I	T	W	O	N	T	H	O	L	D			
S	H	I	V	R	E	N	O	A	C	U	T	E
T	I	N	E	A	M	I	D	R	E	R	U	N
O	N	E	R	P	E	T	E	R	N	I	E	

Egypt says external debt in 1995 down to \$29b

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's external debt fell to \$29 billion in 1995, compared to \$44 billion before the Paris Club started writing off debt in 1991. Prime Minister Atef Sedki was quoted on Thursday as saying.

Two years ago the foreign debt stood at \$30.2 billion and it has kept falling as more countries carry out debt waivers linked to Egypt's economic reform programme.

The government newspaper Al-Ahram said Mr. Sedki told a meeting of ministers responsible for the economy that the programme had provided new jobs and pushed the economy towards take-off point.

Dr. Sedki said Egypt was spending 22 billion Egyptian pounds (\$6.5 billion) a year to service foreign and domestic debt and that the economy could sustain the loan instalments.

In 1991 the Paris Club of official creditors agreed to write off \$10 billion they had lent to Egypt, as a reward for Egypt's anti-Iraqi stance in the Gulf war and on condition that Egypt took the opportunity to carry out economic reforms.

Foreign investment in Israel grows

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Foreign investment in Israel increased by 52 per cent during the first half of 1995 compared to the same period last year.

Foreigners invested \$944 million in the Israeli economy from January to June, compared to \$595 million a year ago, according to new figures released by the Bank of Israel.

The most significant rise came in purchase of securities on the Tel Aviv stock exchange, which is rebounding after having lost about a third of its paper value in 1994.

Investment in the stock market was \$231 million during the first half of 1995, compared to only \$183 million for the entire previous year.

Another \$673 million were invested in other assets in the Israeli economy, the statement said.

Peanuts

ISN'T IT GREAT, MARCIE? NO SCHOOLWORK TO WORRY ABOUT...NOTHING TO DO!

I JUST FINISHED ADDRESSING ALL MY CHRISTMAS CARDS, SIR.

I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER, MARCIE.

Andy Capp

JUST SEE HOW YOU GET ALONG WITHOUT ME!

EVERYTHING'S TIDIED UP AND IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR WAY AROUND THE KITCHEN, EAT OUT

THAT TAKES MONEY!

TALK ABOUT A QUICK LEARNER

Mutt'n'Jeff

7-9-3-1-2

THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS INCORRECT PLEASE HANG UP AND DIAL AGAIN. THIS IS A RECORDING.

7-9-3-1-2

THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS INCORRECT PLEASE HANG UP AND DIAL AGAIN. THIS IS A RECORDING.

I'LL DO IT REAL SLOW THIS TIME! 7-9-3-1-2

STUPID, WE DON'T HAVE NO SUCH NUMBER! LOOK IT UP AND TRY AGAIN! THIS IS A RECORDING!

BUSINESS

Mini of Su to im cerea from

The Supply of Syrian Cereals Processing Corporation intends to import tonnes of wheat from the Syrian official wheat and cement (AI).

**** A total** tonnes of French wheat Supply were loaded in the 1984 that imports flour imports (Dustour).

**** Director** Jordan Corporation Al Bahrain National Company been registered Ministry of Trade comptroller shareholding owned main corporation. He student ass JD 20-million will meet so its bylaws (A).

**** Represent** Arab airline their meeting on Thursday, which to discuss ing market and study the such alliance tended by re of Jordan, Syria, Kuwait, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Rai).

**** The Mini** started imple cent Cabinet ing to reduc of illegal for in the King Minister Nadi said details down on ill will be anno the press. H workers w Jordan before of the Cab will be giv month perio needed wor otherwise w leave the Rai).

**** A delega** ing the International Cooperation (IICA) is Amman to c landlides on Jerash-Irbid project, wh nanced by J from severa which partia during the pa son (AI Rai).

Business Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Ministry of Supply to import cereals from Syria

The Ministry of Supply intends to import large quantities of cereals from the Syrian Cereals Trade and Processing Public Corporation. The Ministry intends to import 100,000 tonnes of wheat, 100,000 tonnes of barley and 1,000 tonnes of lentils. A team from the ministry will visit Syria within a week to negotiate with the Syrian corporation on prices and final quantities. Informed sources said the Syrian side agreed to barter the barley for Jordanian cement. The sources said the ministry's team will do its utmost to convince the Syrian officials to barter the other quantities of wheat and lentils for cement (Al Dustour).

A total of 20,970 tonnes of French flour purchased by the Ministry of Supply were recently unloaded in the Aqaba Gulf. It was the first time since 1984 that the ministry imports flour. It usually imports wheat (Al Dustour).

Director General of the Jordan Investment Corporation Mohammad Al Bataineh said the National Petroleum Company has recently been registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade companies' comptroller as a public shareholding company owned mainly by the corporation. He said the constituent assembly of the JD 20-million company will meet soon to approve its bylaws (Al Ra'i).

Representatives of 10 Arab airlines concluded their meetings in Amman on Thursday. The meetings, which were designed to discuss means of striking marketing alliances and study the feasibility of such alliances, were attended by representatives of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Libya (Al Ra'i).

The Ministry of Labour started implementing a recent Cabinet decision aiming to reduce the number of illegal foreign workers in the Kingdom. Labour Minister Nader Abul Shaar said details for clamping down on illegal workers will be announced soon in the press. He said illegal workers who were in Jordan before the issuance of the Cabinet decision will be given a three-month period to obtain the needed work permits or otherwise will be asked to leave the Kingdom (Al Ra'i).

A delegation representing the Japanese International Overseas Cooperation Agency (JICA) is currently in Amman to do studies on landslides on the Amman-Jerash-Irbid road. The road project, which was financed by JICA, suffered from several landslides which partially closed it during the past winter season (Al Ra'i).

Beirut unions challenge government on price hikes

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's powerful trade unions on Thursday renewed threats to the government to launch open-ended general strikes and demonstrations until controversial tax and price hikes were cancelled. The General Labour Confederation (GLC) said after a meeting of its executive committee it was giving billionaire Prime Minister Rafiq Al Hariri's government until the end of August to prove its intention to meet the demands raised by the unions. "The GLC affirms its decision to undertake open-ended general strikes and demonstrations in all Lebanese areas," the GLC said in a statement.

The unions decided to turn the heat on the government after the authorities banned demonstrations and used security forces to block street protests during a general strike on July 19. The one-day strike and protests were called by the GLC to force the government to scrap the increases — including 38 per cent on the price of petrol. Outlining their demands, the unions said their terms for continuing dialogue with the government were the scrapping of the rises and annulment of all sentences against protesters who were fined for taking part in the protests.

Two courts in Beirut and Sidon had convicted and fined 26 out of 70 detainees for violating a ban on demonstrations and inciting disturbances during the protests. The GLC also said the government should take measures to curb what it said was the squandering of public funds, lower the interest on public debt and to get "just revenue" by taxing big companies and wealthy businessmen, not workers and employees. The unions have said the tax and price policy was starving people and rapped Mr. Hariri's multi-billion dollar plans to rebuild Lebanon from the 1975-90 civil war, saying they did not meet the people's needs.

The GLC criticised parliament for not taking a tougher line against the government by not ordering it to scrap the increases during a debate of economic policy and drafts this week. "What was requested from parliament were resolutions committing the government to respect the constitution, to stop all acts of tyranny and aggression on freedoms, to stop the starvation policy and to cancel the petrol price hike," it said.

Parliament issued recommendations on Monday for the government to "rectify mistakes" resulting from the rises. The GLC, announcing it would continue its "programme of mobilisation" through conferences, meetings and rallies, called for a festival for a popular forces and unionists on August 8.

U.S. abstains as WTO members confirm finance pact

GENEVA (AFP) — World Trade Organisation (WTO) members formally approved here on Friday a landmark pact to further open up world trade in the fast-growing financial services sector, despite the United States abstaining.

The pact, the first major post-war trade deal excluding the United States, covers some 90 per cent of world financial business. It will take effect in 12 months and will be open for review by the end of 1997.

The accord should form the basis for another round of talks and further improvements, hopefully with full U.S. participation, WTO negotiators said.

"Today's achievement should be considered as a key step forward, but by no means the end of the process," said Frank Swedlove of Canada, chairman of the WTO committee on trade in financial services. He also implicitly recognised that the scope of the accord was limited by the surprise withdrawal of the U.S. from the negotiations at the end of June, when Washington decided that concessions offered by some Asian countries were insufficient.

Given the events of June 30, the results were "the best that could be hoped for," he said, commending the European Union (EU) for its leadership in successful efforts to avert a collapse of the talks in the past month.

In practical terms, the accord will mean that markets in many countries will be opened to more foreign banks, securities firms and insurance companies. It will also mean that key countries — basically those of the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and a number of emerging Asian and Latin American market economies — will open up for increased cross-border sales of financial services.

But it was improved market access commitments from Japan and South Korea that enabled Mr. Swedlove's panel to clinch a "substantial consensus" here on Wednesday.

Mr. Swedlove announced that the financial services committee had officially recorded "schedules" of improved commitments by 29 countries — counting the 15-nation European Union as one — and would sign a protocol to this effect by the end of next June.

The new concessions will come on top of those tabled by about 90 countries at the end of the Uruguay Round trade negotiations in December 1993.

Considering that the initial commitments offered by some developing countries were insufficient at that point, the United States, backed by other industrial countries, called for further talks with a deadline at the end of last June.

But on the eve of the deal, it pulled out of the negotiations, saying it would take an exemption from the WTO's basic Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle, providing for non-discrimination among members, for the entire financial services sector.

While giving the EU, and other key trading partners assurances that their positions in the lucrative U.S. market would be safeguarded, it served notice that new entrants would be admitted only if their home countries offered reciprocal terms for U.S. firms.

Echoing hopes that the United States may be brought back into the multilateral fold in this vital sector after the next U.S. presidential and congressional elections, committee Chairman Swedlove said a review of the new protocol by end-1997 would "create an opportunity for commitments to further liberalisation and an even broader MFN-based agreement."

And it will pave the way for increased provision of asset management by wholly or partially foreign-owned companies in many markets. Japan, in particular, agreed to "multilateralise" a bilateral agreement with the United States, so guaranteeing foreign access to the management of Japanese public and private pension funds now worth upward of \$1,300 billion.

WTO spokesman David Woods reported shortly after 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) that a "deal was done" both on financial services and on the companion issue of temporary admission of individuals providing services.

India, Pakistan and Egypt had set an accord on the "movement of natural persons" as a pre-condition for joining the finance deal. EU diplomats recognised that "we are not very open" on this issue but said it was at present a "politically very sensitive one."

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French Total considers doing more Iran oil deals

PARIS (R) — French oil group Total S.A. said it was interested in more deals with Iran, despite U.S. opposition to a recent exploration deal for the Sirri offshore field.

"We have a long-term interest in Iran. We think that there are a lot of things to do in Iran, it is a country with a lot of (oil) fields and there are many possibilities to improve the renewal of reserves," Total Chairman Thierry Desmarest said.

"For us it is not a case of doing Sirri and then end there," he added in an interview.

"There are more projects, some have to do with upstream, others have to do with refining. And there will be other projects in the future. We will look at them case by case, for the moment

the Sirri case is very important to us," he said. Mr. Desmarest said the company had received expressions of interest from various oil companies to participate in the Sirri project. Total will be majority operator of the Sirri deal but is looking for risk-sharing industrial partners.

Iran's contract with Total replaced a U.S. deal blocked by Washington. In March President Bill Clinton barred Houston-based Conoco Inc from proceeding with an initial contract with Iran for the Sirri island fields signed by its Dutch subsidiary.

He later announced a trade embargo against Iran for its alleged nuclear weapons programme and sponsorship of what Washington calls "terrorism." The United States has protested to France over Total's deal and called on Paris not to extend official credits to Tehran to finance it.

Mr. Desmarest said that the discussions to form a Sirri consortium would take a few months. Depending on the success of this so-called "farm out" process for Sirri, Total would consider other projects. He had no comment on the U.S. government's opposition to the Sirri deal.

"Our agreement is not breaking any laws or United Nations sanctions. We will try to complete this project in the best possible conditions," he said.

Talks with Iraq were continuing but any deal would not become effective until after a trade embargo was lifted. He did not comment on the state of the discussions.

Total signed the Sirri deal on July 13 with the National Iranian Oil Co to develop the Sirri "A" and "E" fields located offshore from a Gulf island closer to Dubai than to mainland Iran. The fields will be connected to Sirri island where the Iranian company currently operates the "C" and "D" fields as well as a storage and shipping terminal.

Total is responsible for securing the financing of all costs incurred — estimated at \$600 million. The work is expected to last five years and production should begin within less than three years.

Capacity is estimated at 120,000 barrels per day and Total will get about a third of the crude oil in return for its investment. It will also market the gas produced from the field.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3640/50	Canadian dollar	1.3848/58
	1.3848/58	Deutsche marks	1.5514/24
	1.5514/24	Dutch guilders	1.1508/18
	28.48/52	Swiss francs	4.7910/60
	4.7910/60	Belgian francs	1585.80/8
	1585.80/8	French francs	88.43/53
	88.43/53	Italian lire	7.0425/25
	7.0425/25	Japanese yen	6.1380/30
	6.1380/30	Swedish crowns	5.3835/85
	5.3835/85	Norwegian crowns	\$1.5976/86
One sterling	\$1.5976/86	Danish crowns	\$383.25/383.75
One ounce of gold	\$383.25/383.75		

Agassi and Sampras advance to quarterfinals of Montreal Open

MONTREAL (AP) — Top-seeded Andre Agassi and No. 2 Pete Sampras both reached the quarterfinals of the \$2.5 million Canadian Open tennis tournament Thursday.

Agassi, who ousted Sampras as world No. 1, breezed by Czech qualifier Daniel Vacek 6-3, 6-2. Sampras had no more trouble in bouncing unseeded Mauricio Hadad of Colombia 6-2, 6-3 on the hardcourts at Jarry Stadium.

"I'd like to meet Pete in the finals because he's the guy to beat," said Agassi, who has reached at least the quarterfinals in 17 consecutive tournaments. "When I do beat him, I feel it's a huge accomplishment."

"He's arguably the best player in the world. He's one guy that if I play my best tennis, I don't necessarily

win."

Each has two matches to win before Sunday's final, starting Friday when Agassi was to meet unseeded fellow American Malivai Washington, who ousted 1994 French Open champion and ninth seed Sergi Bruguera of Spain 6-4, 6-2.

Sampras, in his first tournament since winning a third straight Wimbledon title July 3, was due to face seventh-seeded German Michael Stich in the quarterfinals.

Stich downed the 10th seed, Jim Courier of the United States, 6-3, 6-2.

"It should be a good match because we both play a similar style," said Sampras, whose career record against Stich is even at three wins apiece.

Agassi has gone 81-11 in

matches since winning the Canadian Open in Toronto last year, including wins in the U.S. Open last September and the Australian Open in January.

He says this year's U.S. Open beginning Aug. 29 should decide who is best between the two.

"I think the one who wins the most majors in a year is No. 1," said Agassi. "If Pete wins the U.S. Open, then I'm not No. 1."

"The U.S. Open is pivotal. I won Australia and he won Wimbledon."

The third and fourth seeds also advanced in Michael Chang of the United States

drubbed 13th seeded Todd Martin of the United States 6-3, 6-2 and Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia got by New Zealand upstart Brett Steven 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.

Chang, who won the Canadian Open in 1990, next faces 21-year-old Swede Thomas Enqvist, the 12th seed who ousted fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia 6-7 (2-7), 7-6 (7-3), 7-5.

Kafelnikov is next to play Mats Wilander, the former world No. 1 from Sweden who upset sixth-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa 6-3, 6-2.

Meanwhile, there were no more boos for Greg Rusedski on a side court when he and partner Paul Wekesa of Kenya lost their second-round doubles match to mark Philippoussis and Patrick Rafter of Australia.

Rusedski, a Montreal native who recently opted to play for Britain, had been cheered by the crowd when he lost in the first round of singles this week.



Diane Modahl

IAAF considering another test on Modahl sample

GOTHENBURG (R) — International athletics officials are considering a third test on Briton Diane Modahl's urine sample to determine whether heat could have caused an excessive testosterone level.

On Wednesday a British Athletic Federation (BAF) panel overturned a four-year drugs ban on the 1990 Commonwealth 600 metres champion, saying the high levels of the male sex hormone in the test could have resulted from unrefrigerated storage.

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) General Secretary Istvan Gyulai said on Friday a new test would clearly show whether the levels had been caused by heat or were already in the urine from Modahl's body.

"It is possible (that we will have another test)," Gyulai said. "We are told by scientists that another analysis would clearly show whether the elevated levels were caused by heat or had been in the body."

The IAAF's ruling council are due to discuss the case at

a meeting on Monday in Gothenburg ahead of the world championships starting in the Swedish city.

The council is hoping to consider some legal and medical reported about the case but is then expected to refer the case to its arbitration panel due to the complexities of the affair.

Modahl was suspended after testing positive for testosterone at a meeting in Lisbon last year and last December the BAF disciplinary committee ruled that Modahl had committed a doping offence, a finding vehemently denied by the 29-year-old Briton and her husband and coach Vicente.

But the BAF panel said on Wednesday after a two-day hearing it had concluded it could not be sure beyond reasonable doubt of Modahl's guilt.

Gyulai said the British panel maintained that the urine from Modahl's samples had been kept for three days in an office in Portugal at temperatures of around 37 degrees Celsius.

Israel bows out of Indonesia archery event

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel will not send a team to take part in the World Archery Championships in Jakarta because of a series of restrictions imposed by the Indonesian government, sports officials said Friday.

The Israeli Sports Federation (ISF) said it had been told by the Jakarta authorities the team would not be allowed to fly the Star of David flag, march together at the opening and closing ceremony or wear any uniform with an Israeli emblem.

If an Israeli won a medal

the Indonesians would not play the "Hati-Kiva," Israel's national anthem.

ISF Chairman Yejezekel Harmelech refused to take part after hearing Indonesia's terms, from International Archery Federation chairman Jim Histon.

Harmelech said Indonesia demanded a written acceptance of the restrictions otherwise visas would not be granted upon arrival.

Histon offered Israel a wildcard entry to the 1996 Olympic Games, the ISF said in a statement.

A 1988 Indonesian ministerial decree forbids athletes from competing against athletes from countries with which Jakarta has not diplomatic relations, such as Israel. It bans any unrecognised country from playing its national anthem or raise its flag on Indonesian soil.

The ISF and the World Jewish Congress condemned Jakarta's move as "bizarre racism and anti-Semitism."

The 38th World Outdoor Archery Championship from August 1 to 6 are the first

qualifying round for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

According to reports from Jakarta, the authorities have also protested against Portugal's participation.

Indonesia, the largest Muslim nation in the world, does not recognise the state of Israel. It broke relations with Portugal after it invaded the former Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1976 and subsequently annexed it.

The International Archery Federation (FITA) bans discrimination on the grounds of race, religion or politics.

Seles match in doubt

PRINCETON, New Jersey (AP) — Martina Navratilova aggravated a groin injury in a world team tennis match, putting in doubt her status for an exhibition Saturday that marks Monica Seles' return to tennis after a two-year absence.

"Right now, I have no idea if I'll be able to play," Navratilova told the Star-Ledger of Newark of her match with Seles at Atlantic City. "I want to get ready for our matches and that match, too. But, right now, I'm not sure. I'm not used to being injured and I hate it."

Australian tennis official denies breakaway tour

SYDNEY (R) — The International Tennis Federation (ITF) wants to change the existing ATP tour structure rather than create a rival tour, a senior Australian official said Thursday.

"It's a matter of finding the best solution. I don't think there are going to be two separate tours," Tennis Australia President Geoff Pollard said.

Pollard, a member of the ITF management committee, was responding to an ITF statement released in London on Wednesday that the organisation was considering

promoting another tour. The ITF controls the four Grand Slam tournaments — the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open — the Davis Cup and the Grand Slam Cup.

The ITF said in its statement that it felt the ATP tour had "lost its focus" and was too unwieldy.

"It appears to us that a tour of 87 events is supporting too many players and too many tournaments, many of which are not financially viable," the statement said.

The French daily L'Equipe reported on Wednesday that

one of media magnate Rupert Murdoch's companies was the potential financial backer for a circuit involving 10 tournaments, each with \$3.5 million prize money.

Two tournaments would be played before each of the four Grand Slam events and the Grand Slam Cup.

Pollard said the ITF was looking at existing ATP events, such as the Lipton International, Italian Open and Japan Open, as candidates for upgrading in status.

"We are talking about the same group of tournaments," Pollard said.

More talks planned on match-rigging case

LONDON (AFP) — The English Football Association (FA) chief executive Graham Kelly said here Friday they were planning more talks in private next week to discuss the match-fixing charges levelled against three Premiership stars.

But Kelly remained diplomatic over the controversy simmering over Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers.

Kelly admitted he would be meeting his Premier League counterpart Rick Parry next week to examine possible measures. The FA supremo said: "We cannot necessarily leave this matter alone. I will be having further discussions with Rick Parry next week."

"We have to balance the individual interests of the players involved against the integrity of the game as a whole, while also taking into account the concerns expressed by FIFA this week."

On Wednesday, two days after the players were charged, FIFA called for the

FA to take "urgent and appropriate measures" against the trio, who have been cleared to play for their clubs by English football bosses.

On Thursday, FA councilor Keith Wiseman said it was "wholly impracticable" to take instant action.

But today Kelly conceded: "There are a number of options — but I obviously can't put them into the public domain just now. Rest assured there will be further talks next week."

The FA have denied they are putting behind-the-scenes pressure on the clubs to suspend the players.

And Segers' lawyer, Mel Goldberg, has revealed that he would sue the FA if they attempted to ban his client.

He is reported as saying: "It is disgraceful — if it is true — that FIFA are pressurising the FA and the FA, through the old body network, are pressurising the clubs. It amounts to the same thing: the FA are banning the players."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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THE INTRA-FINESSE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ Q 9 8 6 3

♥ A K 7 5

♦ K J 10 2

♣ Void

WEST

♠ 10 2

♥ 4

♦ 9 8 6

♣ A Q J 10 9 6 4 3 K 8 7 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A 7 4

♥ Q 10 9 8 7 3

♦ 5 3

♣ 6

The bidding:

South West North East

Pass 3♦ Dbl 5♦

5♦ Pass Pass Pass

Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Finesses come in various guises.

There is a complex finesse, known

in the trade as the "intra-finesse,"

that crops up with some degree of

frequency, yet is often overlooked in

the play.

Although the North hand con-

tained only 14 points in high cards,

its perfect distribution made it well

worth a takeout double even at the

three-level. East boosted the pre-

empt to the five-level, but South

held too much to be shut out of the

suction. East's double was based on

the fact the high cards were behind

the strong hand.

Had West led a diamond there

would have been no story to tell, but

it is impossible to fault the defend-

er's choice of the ace of clubs. De-

spite the relieve, declarer still had

a hard row to hoe. To avoid going

down, South would have to establish

the table's spades while losing only

one trick in the suit.

The obvious method would be to

play West for the king of spades, but

the bidding made it dollars to

doughnuts that East held that card.

The intra-finesse, which depended

on West holding either the ten or

jack of spades guarded no more than

once, was more appealing.

The opening lead was ruffed high

in dummy and, since trumps were

going to be needed as entries to the

table, declarer could not afford to

draw two rounds. Instead, the closed

hand was entered with a trump and

low spade was led to the eight, losing

to the jack. East exited with a

trump, won on the board, when East

followed low, so did South. When

that panned the ten, all was well.

Declarer cashed the ace of spades,

crossed to dummy with a trump,

discarded two diamonds on the good

spades and cheerfully conceded a

diamond trick to the defenders.

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2. Tender proposals should be submitted by hand to the chairman of the central tendering committee not later than 12:00 noon, Sunday April 20th 1995.
3. Each tender shall be accompanied by tender bid bond in favour of the Jordan University of Science & Technology Chairman of Central Tendering Committee drawn from or approved by an accredited bank in Jordan in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total tender sum such bond shall remain valid for a period of not less than three months from the closing date of the tender submission.
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Damon Hill

McRae takes lead in New Zealand Rally

ROTORUA, New Zealand (R) — Colin McRae seized control of the New Zealand rally Friday when he leaped from sixth place to first in one stage.

The Scottish driver led French world champion Didier Auriol by just 12 seconds after the second day, but established himself as favourite to win the event for the third successive years.

McRae and his Subaru Impreza were particularly fast on the tight sections and Saturday's leg includes some of the tightest special stages in world rallying.

"Tomorrow Colin says goodbye to us all," said Auriol, mindful of the Subaru's superiority in the conditions over his Toyota Celica.

Only 50 seconds separate the first six drivers, but overnight leader Tommi Makinen of Finland is not among them. He started the day well as he extended his lead from eight to 28 seconds by winning the first three stages.

But near the end of the long fourth stage he misjudged a corner, slid too far

Hill takes provisional front grid at German Grand Prix

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (AFP) — Britain's Damon Hill and David Coulthard in their Williams Renaults out-paced the German World Champion Michael Schumacher (Benetton Renault) Friday to take the provisional front grid row for Sunday's German Grand Prix.

Hill took provisional pole in an exciting duel with hometown hero Schumacher, posting a time of 1min. 44.932, less than 1.5 seconds outside the 1994 pole time set with 3.5 litre cars with better aerodynamics.

Hill, Coulthard and Schumacher were so close together on the track that Hill's pit did not have time to signal him about their progress.

"I wasn't totally sure where I was in relation to the others. I had to go flat out, and do the best lap I could. It was bloody good fun," said Hill.

The one-hour qualifying session had started on a track wet from slight rain, but it had dried out by the time Hill and Schumacher were duelling.

Hill's team-mate David Coulthard took second place despite "a couple of mistakes" including a half-spin on the greasy track. "I expect to be challenging for the pole tomorrow," Coulthard said.

Schumacher admitted: "It was not a good session as we

Asian Women's Basketball Championship Title-favourites Thailand defeat national team 71-42

From Aileen Bannayan in Shizuoka

The Kingdom's women's national basketball team Friday gave level B title favourites Thailand a hard time before losing 71-42 at the 16th Asian Basketball Championship for Women currently underway in Shizuoka, Japan.

Playing in their first tournament after a 12-year absence, Jordan's players tried to adapt to the fast attacking play and excellent shooting by Asian teams in this 12-nation championship. After the team lost the first half with a 20-point margin at 38-18, the second half score was better at 33-24 for Thailand, who are the only unbeaten team in Level B and are expected to defeat Hong Kong Saturday to clinch their group's title.

Scoring remained close at the beginning, as Suhair Maqusi played her first match with a heavily-strapped knee, netting a

3-pointer in the 9th minute. Hind Ghouri rebounded and scored four consecutive points as Thailand led 23-14. However, the final three minutes of the first half secured Thailand's win as they expanded the lead to 38-18 following a series of turnovers and three 3-pointers.

Jumana Salhi was again the team's top scorer with 17 points. Together with Jehane Abdelnour, she scored the first 12 points of the second half, while Rana Hussein secured defensive rebounding.

Thailand were however, determined to increase their lead as they sailed to the Level B title, relying on accurate shooting to end the game 71-42.

Scoring came as follows: Jumana Salhi 17, Jehane Abdelnour 8, Suhair Maqusi 3, Rana Hussein, Hind Ghouri and Hala Muheisen 4, Rania Dajani 2.

Results:
Level B
Hong Kong-Malaysia 61-40
Thailand-Jordan 71-42
Philippines-Indonesia 67-60
Level A
Japan-Korea 82-78
China-Kyrgyzstan 117-52
Taipei-Kazakhstan 104-57



Suhair Maqusi

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The prize is awarded every year rotating among four fields of pure science **Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics**. Young Jordanian scientists are now invited to apply for the **TWAS PRIZE** which amounts to \$2000. **Mathematics and Physics** will be considered in the contest for the prize in the next two years.

So, if you are a Jordanian, resident in Jordan, and of age not exceeding 40 years, we will be glad to receive your contribution in any of the two fields mentioned above, taking into consideration that submission is open till October 1995. We are ready to provide you with any additional information about the rules & mechanism of submission.

Interested applicants are kindly requested to contact Mrs. Majd Khayyat Talhouni at the following address:

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Royal Scientific Society
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Fax: 844806
Tel: 844701
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PNA offers to take Abu Marzouk

GAZA (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) offered on Friday to give U.S.-detained Hamas official Mousa Abu Marzouk a home, while Israel considered asking the United States to hand him over for trial.

The United States on Thursday announced the detention of Dr. Abu Marzouk, a political leader of Hamas, the militant group that opposed PLO peace moves with Israel.

In a statement faxed to international news agencies, Hamas warned Washington against extraditing Dr. Abu Marzouk to Israel. It said it had never attacked U.S. interests.

PNA President Yasser Arafat's spokesman, Marwan Kanafani, said: "The Palestinian National Authority will...naturally offer to accept brother Abu Marzouk, who is of Palestinian origin, in its territory if no place of residence is found for him."

Israel said it would decide

soon whether to seek his extradition, provided the evidence supported an indictment.

"There is no doubt we are interested in him," Israel Justice Minister David Libai told army radio. Asked whether to expect a decision soon, he said: "Certainly."

In its statement on Friday, Hamas said: "Hamas warns the U.S. authorities against contemplating the handing over of Dr. Abu Marzouk to the Zionist occupation authorities."

"The U.S. administration is hereby held fully responsible for whatever harm that may befall Dr. Abu Marzouk."

U.S. officials said Dr. Abu Marzouk admitted belonging to Hamas. One official said he may have been in charge of political operations in the United States, while another said he had been engaged in fundraising.

Dr. Abu Marzouk, 45, was living in Amman, even meet-

ing U.S. officials, until his expulsion last month. Hamas sources said. His Gaza family said he was never personally involved in violence and opposed it.

"He is among the few who call for casting aside violence and terrorism and for solving matters through dialogue," said Dr. Abu Marzouk's brother, Brigadier-General Mahmoud Abu Marzouk, who heads the Palestinian civil defence department in Gaza.

He said his brother held a U.S. residency card and he had never been arrested during his 15-year stay in the United States.

Dr. Abu Marzouk was detained by immigration officials at New York's Kennedy airport after they found his name on the "watch list" of aliens not allowed to enter.

U.S. officials said they would try to remove him because his alleged fundraising activities contributed to violent acts.

'1,000 Kuwaitis missing in Iraq'

CAIRO (AFP) — About 1,000 Kuwaitis are still missing in Iraq five years after Baghdad's invasion of the emirate, and Iraqi leaders must shed light on their fate, a rights group said Friday.

Iraq has "demonstrated a disturbing disregard for (its) international obligations to wards prisoners of war and civilian detainees," Human Rights Watch said in a letter delivered to Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations.

"There is substantial evidence that most of the people now unaccounted for were arrested by Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait," the group said in the letter, received in Cairo.

Baghdad has denied that it is still holding any Kuwaitis captured after its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of the emirate.

The group cited "official Iraqi documents left behind in Kuwait" when the troops were routed by a U.S.-led coalition. They indicated where many prisoners were held and the names of Iraqi

officers who interrogated them, the letter said without giving details.

Kuwaitis, who have escaped from Iraq or been released since 1991, "tell of more Kuwaitis held until this day," it added.

The Kuwaiti government says 625 nationals are believed to be held in Iraqi prisons, but non-governmental groups have compiled the names of a further 350 still missing, the group said.

The government figures do not include hundreds of "Bidoons," stateless Arabs, "who disappeared into Iraqi custody."

Most of the detainees transported out of Kuwait to Iraq were members of Kuwaiti military or security forces captured during the invasion.

But Baghdad also arrested several thousand civilians suspected of resistance activities as well as some 2,000 other men during the final days of the occupation

"apparently to serve as human shields," the U.S.-based group said.

"We call on the government of Iraq to give a full accounting for all those detained and to cooperate fully with humanitarian organisations involved in tracing the disappeared particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross."

Iraq released more than 6,300 Kuwaitis in the months following the Gulf War and hundreds of others managed to escape.

For four years Iraq refused to provide any information to the U.N., until finally admitting in August 1994 that it had held 70 missing Kuwaitis, but said all of them either died or had escaped. It has denied any knowledge of the remaining missing.

The United States and Britain have backed Kuwait's demands that all prisoners be released before a U.N. oil and trade embargo imposed on Baghdad after the invasion is lifted.

UAE raises money for Bosnians

DUBAI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched on Friday a 12-hour radio and television campaign to raise more than \$50 million for Muslims in Bosnia and renewed its support for the lifting of the U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia.

The initiative comes as Muslim states become increasingly impatient with the United Nations' failure to help beleaguered Bosnian Muslims resist Serbian attacks.

The UAE president, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, told UAE television his country supported a decision by foreign ministers from eight Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) states to declare the embargo invalid.

"The UAE and other Gulf states will be among the forerunners of Arab and Muslim brothers in consolidating the Bosnian people," he said, but stopped short of saying this support would include arms.

State-run television and radio stations were taking financial pledges on the air from noon until midnight on Friday.

"We will raise as much as we can but our main target is to raise more than \$50 million for the Bosnian government," the general manager of Abu Dhabi television, Ali Obaid, told Reuters.

On Sunday, the UAE announced a \$11 million donation to Muslims in Bosnia.

Sheikh Zayed said on Friday: "That (donation) was a symbolic contribution. What is needed is to contribute more, and that is what we hope our people will do."

A television announcer said: "The scenes of the drama (in Bosnia) are destruction, terror and fear. The audience is made up of a happy world watching...the show is still going on. From the rear of the threat come the cries of the victims...save us."

The UAE campaign reflects growing Muslim exasperation over what they see as the world's indifference to the suffering of fellow Muslims in Bosnia.

Arafat: All refugees will return to Palestine

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat says all of the estimated 2½ million Palestinians living abroad will eventually be allowed to return, as a result of negotiations with Israel, to Palestine.

He also complained in an interview published Friday by an Arab newspaper that the Israelis put security above all other issues in the peace talks.

"The Israelis are primarily obsessed with security," he said. "They tie everything from agriculture to water to land to holy places to security. Everything. May God help us."

Mr. Arafat said the return of Palestinian refugees from the 1967 Arab-Israeli war is being discussed by a four-sided commission including Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The fate of those who left in the first Middle East war, in 1948, is slated to be discussed in the Israeli-Palestinian talks next year.

The United Nations estimates that the refugees and their descendants number 2.6 million, of which 1.6 million live in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

"No Palestinians are going to be resettled in the Arab World because they have only one homeland, which is

Palestine," Mr. Arafat told an An-Nahar reporter in Paris, where his wife recently gave birth.

In Lebanon, more than 300,000 Palestinians, predominantly Muslims, live in 11 refugee camps.

Lebanese government and religious leaders fear international pressure will force them to accept a permanent re-settlement of the Palestinians in their country.

That would put the delicate Muslim-Christian power balance, which has prevented a resurgence of the 1975-90 civil war, in the Muslim's favour.

Mr. Arafat said only a final, regional peace settlement will succeed in calming Israel's security apprehensions, which were heightened this week by the deaths of six Israelis in a suicide bombing on a public bus.

Mr. Arafat, who has hinted that Iran is supporting Muslim militants in the self-rule areas, said Islamic regime in Tehran should understand that its cause is obsolete.

"Iran should take into consideration the changes that are occurring on the international scene," he said, without elaborating.

However, he added that "Iran is beginning to realise the meaning of these changes."

Islamic group in Israel denies it aids Hamas

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Islamic Movement on Friday denied police accusations it was channelling funds to the Palestinian Hamas group, an opponent of the peace process which has killed scores of Israelis in suicide bombings.

Israeli police on Thursday raided the offices of the aid committee of the Islamic Movement in the northern Israeli town of Nazareth and seized documents which it said showed that the charity was aiding Hamas.

"This claim is totally baseless. The police and the secret service know well the national relief committee carries out only humanitarian aid to anyone in need in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or inside Israel," Islamic Movement spokesman Ibrahim Sarsour said in an interview with Israel radio's Arabic service.

There are about 700,000 Arab citizens of Israel and Islamic Movements have become increasingly popular with them.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said on Wednesday: "Evidence has been collected that the committee aided organisations hostile to Israel."

He said evidence showed the aid group had sent "extremely large sums in dollars" from "extremist movements" abroad to families of Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas activists deported by Israel and to people whose houses had been demolished by Israel for "security reasons."

Mr. Bar-Chen gave no figures but said police seized "thousands of documents" and computers from the office. He said no one had been arrested.



Refugees from the fallen enclave of Zepa sit in the hot afternoon sun July 27 at a camp built by Turkish peacekeepers. Thousands of frightened Muslim civilians

streamed from the fallen "safe area" of Zepa under U.N. escort as rival commanders negotiated the possible surrender of government troops in the enclave (Reuters photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Sabahs bankrupting Kuwait — Iraq'

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Kuwait under the ruling Sabah family has degenerated into a bankrupt emirate where public funds are squandered on arms purchases, an official Iraqi daily charged Friday. "Because of the Sabahs, the Kuwaiti economy has turned into an arms market and is completely bankrupt," it said, less than a week before the fifth anniversary of Iraq's invasion of the emirate. "The tension, fear and despair prevalent in Kuwait cannot be eliminated," said Al Thawra newspaper of the ruling Baath Party. "The economy of Kuwait is being pillaged and its public funds are being squandered," Al Thawra said. "Arms purchases have swallowed up the greater part of Kuwait's assets."

Indian Muslims protest killings in Bosnia

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Thousands of Indian Muslims on Friday protested the deaths of Muslims in Bosnia and Karachi, blaming it on the United Nations and Pakistani authorities. Some 5,000 Muslims burnt an effigy of U.N. Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali outside the 17th-century Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque here, after an emotional speech by a prominent religious leader. "The United Nations is very partial when it comes to Serb atrocities," thundered Ahmad Bukhari, the mosque's deputy imam. "If Muslims had committed such atrocities, the West would have wiped them out," Sheikh Bukhari said the West was not taking strong military action against Bosnian Serb forces because the victims were Muslims. "America acts as the big policeman in the world, but it is silent on the Bosnian crisis," he said, triggering anti-U.S. slogans by the thousands who heard Bukhari after the midday prayers.

'Aung San Suu Kyi to be named UNESCO adviser'

PARIS (AFP) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, freed after six years under house arrest, has been invited to be a special UNESCO advisor on democracy and human rights, the U.N. agency said Friday. A spokeswoman confirmed a report that the dissident leader, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, had been asked to take on the job by UNESCO director General Federico Mayor. The daily Le Monde reported that UNESCO deputy director general Daniel Janicot had travelled to Burma twice to discuss the proposal, once before she was freed on July 10 and again since. The paper said in its Saturday edition that she accepted the post in principle on July 20. Asked about the choice of Aung San Suu Kyi, Mr. Janicot told Le Monde: "We often forget that UNESCO was not created to promote education, science and culture, but to promote peace by means of education, science and culture."

U.N. extends mission to southern Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. Security Council voted Friday to extend the U.N. interim force mission in Lebanon for another six months, according to a statement from the world body. The group restated "its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon," and approved measures put forth by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to "streamline" the force. The cutback would mean a reduction of about 10 per cent of the personnel which currently number 4,967 U.N. soldiers. "Its implementation will not affect the operational capacity of the force," the council said in a statement. The mission to Lebanon began in March 1978. The new six-month extension lasts until January 31, 1996.

UAE president to finance bird breeding centre in Morocco

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan will finance a centre to breed rare houbara bustards in Morocco, the semi-official daily Al Ittihad reported Thursday. The \$10 million project, to be based in the Mairoua area, is intended to increase the number of the birds in Morocco. Sheikh Zayed's adviser, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Mohammad Al Qassimi told the paper.

'Corrupt, cruel and filthy cities are necessary evil'

CAIRO (AFP) — Cities are a breeding-ground for dirt, corruption, apathy and brutality but are a necessary evil, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi wrote in the Egyptian daily Al Ahram on Friday. In full-page article contributed to a special section in the paper on urban planning Col. Qadhafi wrote: "Life in the city is stripped to a worm-like biological level where man lives and dies without meaning." "Morals become hypocrisy...the city kills social sense and human feeling and creates apathy and numbness. A son might kill his father, a father his son. You could lose life or limb just crossing the street. "How cruel the city which forces its residents to accept irrationality," he said, citing such "urban lunacies" as football when "millions follow 22 people running madly behind a watermelon-shaped sack filled with air."

Three held in alleged rape of British girl

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Three men have been arrested on suspicion of raping a teenage British girl last week, a local newspaper reported Thursday. The English-language Gulf News identified the 19-year-old victim only by her initials L.M. The suspects were all 23-year-old Gulf nationals, the newspaper added without releasing their names. It was not clear how soon after the alleged rape, which occurred at the Thursday-Friday Muslim weekend, the men were arrested. The British embassy in Dubai said it was not aware of the incident.

Human rights in Arab World deteriorate in '94

CAIRO (AFP) — Human rights in the Arab World took a turn for the worse in 1994 after some improvement in the late 1980s, the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) said in its annual report.

"We recorded some positive steps, but the total shows a continuing erosion of legal guarantees and the occurrence of extreme violations of human rights," AOHR general secretary Mohammad Faiq said in a press conference. Thursday after a constitutional reform movement which began in 1989, "we have a counter legislative trend which tends to weaken (legal) guarantees and, harsher punishments," the 324-page report said.

"This trend became excessive in the first months of 1995," it said.

Laws on "political participation have seen numerous contradictions," the report said, adding that some countries eliminated restrictive laws only to replace them with new, harsher ones.

"Elections have been held on all levels but all have consecrated the monopoly of the same elites over power."

Free expression was limited by more restrictions (including) the closing of dozen of newspapers, the banning of articles and the imprisonment of journalists," the report said.

It gave the example of Lebanon, where a law imposing restriction on audio-visual media was repealed but replaced by a new law giving complete authority to the government to deny or revoke licences to media without recourse to the courts.

The report also said a new Egyptian law against defamation, passed in May 1995 "reduces guarantees to journalists in the field of human rights...and its moral value was also seriously flawed," the report said.

The AOHR, founded in 1983 and based in the Egyptian capital, is an independent group funded by private donations. Mr. Faiq said.

France expresses solidarity with Lebanon

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac expressed solidarity with Lebanon on Friday, saying the two countries were from the "same family" during a lunch with Lebanese premier Rafiq Hariri.

He said Mr. Hariri's two-day visit "coincides with a new and increasingly expressed solidarity between France and Lebanon, which is making progress towards development, independence and peace."

"We are of the same family...even if our two states are independent," he said in a toast to Mr. Hariri at the Elysee Palace lunch. Mr. Chirac's comments were reported by Elysee spokeswoman Catherine Colonna.

The French president said he was "convinced that the path which Lebanon is today taking, which is that of solidarity, unity and tolerance, is the right path."

Responding to the toast, Mr. Hariri said he felt "how much Lebanon is present in

Algeria, as well as de facto emergency laws in Iraq, Somalia and Djibouti, while Libya continues without any constitution at all."

The report expressed its "deep concern for the continuing codification of Islamic sharia law punishments in some Arab countries."

New laws in Iraq imposed amputations for army desertion, theft, "falsifying official documents and making illegal gains" and added the "tattooing of the forehead" of all amputees.

Yemen's new legal code allows sentences of stoning, amputation and crucifixion for 12 new offenses, the report said.

The report noted that prisoners have made "repeated complaints of torture in at least 13 Arab countries, including Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Bahrain and the self-rule area in Palestine."

Violations of "right to life" continued "on a large scale in most parts of the Arab World...due to civil wars, confrontations between governments and armed groups, mass executions and torture," the report said.

The most lethal conflict was the May-July 1994 Yemeni civil war, which left 7,000 dead according to the government and up to 60,000 according to press sources while at least 6,300 died in the conflict in Algeria in 1994.

The AOHR applauded the "surprise" adoption by the Arab League of a draft Arab Charter on Human Rights after two decades of "dispute and procrastination."

But the charter, still being reviewed by Arab governments, "is not expected to enhance legal commitments in the field of human rights...and its moral value was also seriously flawed," the report said.

The AOHR, founded in 1983 and based in the Egyptian capital, is an independent group funded by private donations. Mr. Faiq said.

COLUMN

Soccer fan, upset over loss, kills himself

SHANGHAI (R) — Distraught by his team's loss in a cup match, a Chinese soccer fan committed suicide by throwing himself out of a window, Shanghai's Liberation Daily reported Friday. The soccer-crazy 29-year-old, identified only by his surname Jiang, killed himself on July 23 after his favourite team, Shandong Taishan, lost an away game 2-1 to Beijing's Guoan Squad. Jiang had watched the match live on television in his parent's bedroom, the paper said. Shandong scored first, and it was more than Jiang could bear when Guoan drew level and then scored the winning goal in the last few minutes of the semifinal of the All-China Football Federation Championship. "Jiang, his face shrouded in unhappiness, slowly walked back to his bedroom, locked the door, opened the window and jumped from the fourth floor," the paper said. He was cremated along with soccer magazines and T-shirts purchased by his father. "We should remind diehard fans that victory or defeat is not the essence of soccer and they should raise their psychological level to prevent such tragedies from being repeated," the paper said.

French street names may be axed

PERTH, Australia (AFP) — Angry councillors in Western Australia's premier wine-growing region have voted to remove French names from streets as a protest against plans to resume nuclear tests in the Pacific. Members of the Augusta-Margaret River Shire Council, in the state's deep south-west, are also threatening to call off moves to establish friendship links with the town of Les Arcs, Shire clerk Len Calneggia told AFP that the councillors decided unanimously to take the dual action if the tests go ahead. "We have also written to President (Jacques) Chirac expressing our disgust at the test plans," he said. "We have told the mayor of Les Arcs, with which we have been trying to establish a charter of friendship, we will halt the negotiations unless his council also writes to the president seeking the abandonment of the test program. We feel the people of France have more sway with their president."

Mr. Calneggia said some of the street names to be changed could be Chardonney Street and Cabernet Place. The proposal was to replace them with English or Aboriginal names. Many geographical features in the state's south-west have French names — a legacy of French expeditions early last century, including one in 1801 led by Captain Nicolas Baudin. Mr. Calneggia said there were no immediate plans to change the names of the area's wineries, which include Cape Mentelle and Vasse Felix.

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Ancient burial cave found

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Archaeologists have found a 6,500-year-old burial cave under the Galilee hills of northern Israel, the Antiquities Authority said Thursday. Ceramic sarcophagi and jugs for storing ashes were unearthed along with ritual artefacts of copper and ivory. The discovery was made during road building in the village of Peqin. The cave, featuring stalactites and stalagmites, will eventually be opened to the public.

Bush nearly drowns

HOUSTON (R) — Former U.S. President George Bush nearly drowned when he fell into a peat bog during a fishing trip in remote eastern Canada, a spokesman for Mr. Bush said. Spokesman Jim McGrath in Houston said Mr. Bush was taking a walk through the woods in Newfoundland province when he sank up to his armpits in the bog. It took Secret Service and Royal Canadian Mounted Police several minutes to pull him out. "It was a matter of seconds before he was in over his head," said helicopter pilot Craig Dobbin, who was ferrying the Bush entourage on its Newfoundland excursion.

Government
AMMAN (Petra) — Saturday denied were threatened plant at Dimona. Bataineh said from disease resu Bataineh said sta about other areas the south were radioactivity in Energy and mine the cabinet that 'measure' radioac detected in the so desert, 60 kilomet which was chair cabinet heard br interior and agric Rwanda and th

Volume 19

Syria accuses of blocking
DAMASCUS (R) Foreign Minister Sharrara on Satur Israel of blocking East peace pr Sharrara, speak ing of the joint committee for economic cooper an Israeli witho the Golan Heights in 1967, was still in achieving pe Jewish state. placed obstacles last years in peace." Mr. S Saudi Foreign Prince Saud Al pressed Saudi A port for Syria's mandos and urge without wall to its ders. "We assure ty of Israeli wit pre-June 4, 1967 liberation of Golan." Prince

Police disperse Sudanese stu
T.V.

CAIRO (R) — Su dents rioted out town University Omar Hassan Al with another gro dents inside the Egyptian televis on Saturday. sources in Khartoum confirm whethee took place earlier day and the new from state televis reason for the ri details. The after broadcast said t year gas to disper the university ar the car of interi Brigadier Al Tay Mohammed K Bashir suspended when the gas the conference vision news said. Sudan have been a month-long wa since Egyptian Hosni Mubarak i Sudanese governi a hand in the kill him in Addis June 26, worsene tense diplomatic

Italy presses to extradite ex-premier
TABARKA, Tun — Italy has asked extradite Bettino former Italian pri facing corruption back home. Italy's dor said Friday 61-year-old Cra health reasons, has refuge in 1993 and villa in Hamamet, Carmo, the Italia dor, said he expecte sponse from the government "in a required to go before a court to resp extradition request xi faces two int arrest warrants, filed this month.

Turkish troops separatist K
DIYARBAKIR, (R) — Turkish tro separatist Kur rillas in two clashes east Turkey, offic Saturday. Seven m the Kurdistan Wor (PKK) were killed in Haklari province killed another gue dash in Van provi said. A soldier was in the incident in they added. Mo 17,500 people have lives in the PKK's i war for an indepen dsh state in Turke

Clinton continues national emergency
WASHINGTON (R) President Bill Clinton day notified Cong "because the gover Iraq has continued States hostile to th east," the national ty with respect to continue in effec August 2, 1995.